

## Israeli products discovered in Saudi Arabia

RIYADH (AFP) — Israeli goods imported from other Arab states have been found in Saudi Arabia, which maintains a strict boycott against products from the Jewish state, Riyadh's chamber of commerce said Monday. Chamber President Abdul Rahman Al Juraissi condemned the fact that "other Arab states helped the importation of Israeli products into the kingdom... through intermediaries and under false names." Juraissi called on Saudi citizens and businessmen to be "vigilant" and inform the authorities if they came across Israeli goods. Oman and Qatar are the only two Gulf countries to have Israeli trade missions, although they do not have diplomatic ties with the Jewish state.

## Mandela to receive honorary degree from Harvard

CAMBRIDGE (AP) — South African President Nelson Mandela's honorary law degree from Harvard puts him in the company of one of only three people to receive an honorary degree from Harvard at a commencement ceremony. The others were Winston Churchill in 1970 and the late American president John F. Kennedy in 1961. The symbolic significance of the honor to the mind and to the memory of this great American institution was added to the two illustrious leaders. Mandela, to a standing ovation, more than 8,000 people, Harvard Yard on Friday.

## Beauty queen gives up crown at home

PORT-OF-SPAIN (AP) — Miss Universe 1998, the Trinidadian, gave up her crown next year at home when she was crowned Miss Universe 1999. The 21-year-old beauty queen, who was crowned in the 1999 pageant, said she was giving up the crown to her sister, who is also a beauty queen. The ceremony took place on Saturday, and the new Miss Universe, who was crowned in the 1999 pageant, said she was giving up the crown to her sister, who is also a beauty queen. The ceremony took place on Saturday, and the new Miss Universe, who was crowned in the 1999 pageant, said she was giving up the crown to her sister, who is also a beauty queen. The ceremony took place on Saturday, and the new Miss Universe, who was crowned in the 1999 pageant, said she was giving up the crown to her sister, who is also a beauty queen.

## Rolling Stones wrap up world tour in Istanbul

ISTANBUL (AP) — The Rolling Stones wrapped up their 10th anniversary tour in Istanbul on Friday. The band, which has been together for 30 years, performed at the Istanbul Arena. The Rolling Stones wrapped up their 10th anniversary tour in Istanbul on Friday. The band, which has been together for 30 years, performed at the Istanbul Arena. The Rolling Stones wrapped up their 10th anniversary tour in Istanbul on Friday. The band, which has been together for 30 years, performed at the Istanbul Arena.

## Richard Gere visits St John's Grotto on Palm

ATHENS (AP) — Actor Richard Gere visited the Greek island of Palmi on Monday. Gere, who is married to actress Cate Winslet, was in Greece to promote his new movie, "The Talented Mr. Ripley". Gere visited the Greek island of Palmi on Monday. Gere, who is married to actress Cate Winslet, was in Greece to promote his new movie, "The Talented Mr. Ripley". Gere visited the Greek island of Palmi on Monday. Gere, who is married to actress Cate Winslet, was in Greece to promote his new movie, "The Talented Mr. Ripley".

## Spielberg decorates

ARLINGTON (AP) — Director Steven Spielberg has received the highest civilian honor from the White House for his "Savannah" movie. Spielberg, who has won two Academy Awards, was decorated with the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Spielberg has received the highest civilian honor from the White House for his "Savannah" movie. Spielberg, who has won two Academy Awards, was decorated with the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Spielberg has received the highest civilian honor from the White House for his "Savannah" movie. Spielberg, who has won two Academy Awards, was decorated with the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
جريدة يومية سياسية مستقلة تصدر عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الرأى

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AMMAN TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1998, JUMADA II 1, 1419

Price: Jordan 200 fils

## Clinton's testimony released From Amman to Johannesburg viewers disapprove of Clinton's public ordeal

LONDON (AP) — Watching Bill Clinton in the videotaped deposition on TV in a west London pub Monday, Tony Charlesworth said he already knew more than he wanted to know about the U.S. president's sex life. "I don't need to be seeing this," said Charlesworth, a 31-year-old London businessman. "They should only show it to people who need to see it. They're just humiliating him."

Leave him in peace to worry about the real problems." In Hong Kong, where passers-by watched on a screen at a shopping mall, Lisa Wong said she "supposed most people would lie to keep such an affair secret." In Lebanon, the private Lebanese Broadcasting Corp. appeared to be the only station in the Middle East carrying the simultaneous broadcast. In Greece, the tape was broadcast with simultaneous Greek translation. Giorgos Dedemadis, a 42-year-old mathematics teacher, contrasted the grilling of Clinton about Lewinsky to the affair between the late Premier Andreas Papandreu and a much younger woman, whom he married in 1989. "They say the United States is a mature democracy and a serious country and you have a spectacle like this," Dedemadis said. "At least in Greece we were sophisticated enough to separate a leader's private and public lives. It's clear Clinton's political opponents are just out to get him. It's sad."



Warning: Testimony may contain explicit details

This photograph taken from CNN television on Monday shows U.S. President Bill Clinton testifying in the Map Room at the White House in Washington, D.C. 17 August on videotape before Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr's grand jury investigating the White House sex-and-lies investigation case. The more than four hours of videotape and 2,800 pages of testimony containing details of Clinton's affair with Lewinsky are being released to the general public (AFP photo)

## Clinton stone-faced on definition of sex

WASHINGTON (AFP) — A stone-faced President Bill Clinton stared down his questioners after asserting in testimony televised Monday that "oral sex" could not be considered a form of "sexual relations." Asked whether "oral sex performed on you" was within the definition of sexual relations in the Paula Jones sexual harassment lawsuit against him, Clinton replied: "As I understood it was not." A thick silence in the White House Map Room followed his reply as Clinton glowered back at his questioners and at the camera beaming the tense exchange to jurors in another building in Washington. Clinton's assertion that he did not have sexual relations with a former White House intern, as "sexual relations" was narrowly defined by a judge, is at the crux of his defence against potentially impeachable accusations.

A prosecutor broke the silence, launching a battery of questions at Clinton about whether Lewinsky would be lying if she testified that she and the president had various kinds of contact "in the Oval Office area." Asked whether she would be lying if she said Clinton touched her breasts, Clinton referred back to his previous statement in which he denied having had sexual relations with Lewinsky under the Jones definition. To identical questions about whether Clinton "kissed her breasts," "touched her genitals" or if the two had phone sex, Clinton referred back to the earlier statement. But asked "if Monica Lewinsky says that you used a cigar as a sexual aid with her," Clinton briefly looked horrified, his eyes widening then narrowing, then referred back to his former statement.

## Netanyahu threatens annexation; PNA calls it declaration of war

Agencies

ISRAELI PRIME Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday said he did not rule annexing most of the West Bank if a Palestinian state was declared, in comments described as a "declaration of war" by the Palestinians. Any unilateral declaration of a Palestinian state would "annul the [Oslo] accords" giving the Palestinians five years of autonomy over parts of the West Bank, Netanyahu said in an interview with Israeli state radio. "Nothing will stop us from proclaiming the land under our control [Israeli] and which in any case is not populated by Arabs," he said. The PNA, created in May 1994, controls partially or completely about 60 per cent of the Gaza Strip and 27 per cent of the West Bank. Palestinian negotiator Hassan Asfour branded Netanyahu's comments "a declaration of aggression and war."

## Israeli nuclear programme kicks off IAEA talks

VIENNA (AFP) — The International Atomic Energy Association (IAEA) began its general assembly here Monday, with Israel's secretive nuclear programme to be examined for the first time. "The IAEA's mandate and tasks remain vital for maintaining world peace, for preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons and for ensuring the peaceful and safe use of nuclear technology for sustainable development," said U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, in a message to the assembly. "This session of the general conference takes place against the backdrop of a most regrettable setback in hitherto successful global efforts to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons. We must reaffirm our course of action: no nuclear tests, no new weaponisation or deployment of nuclear weapons, a working system of global and regional security and nuclear disarmament at the earliest possible date," Annan said. Arab countries pressured the IAEA to use this week-long assembly to examine the Israeli nuclear capacity. The nuclear programmes of Iraq, North Korea, India and Pakistan will also come under the microscope here. Israel has never officially admitted that it possesses nuclear weapons though experts credit it with between 100 and 200 warheads capable of being fitted to ballistic missiles. For more than 30 years Israel has had a nuclear plant capable of producing plutonium for manufacturing nuclear bombs. Nuclear tests conducted by India and Pakistan in May will also be a major discussion point during the week as will weapons inspections in Iraq. New U.S. Energy Secretary Bill Richardson will take part in the assembly for the first time and is expected to hold talks with his Russian counterpart Yevgeny Adamov on the sidelines of the meeting. The pair will focus on inspections of plutonium due to be withdrawn from military programmes within two years from 2000.

## Iran adds airpower on Afghan border, marks war with Iraq

TEHRAN (R) — Iran added airborne firepower to a huge military build-up on the border with Afghanistan on Monday and readied commemorations of the start of an eight-year war with Iraq nearly two decades ago. As preparations for border manoeuvres continued, Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi said Iran would seek a political solution to its crisis with the Afghan Taliban at a multilateral meeting called by U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan in New York on Monday. Army helicopter pilots kissed the Koran before taking off from bases in central Kerman and Isfahan provinces to join a force said by Iranian authorities to number 200,000 army troops and 70,000 Revolutionary Guards posted to launch war games on the tense Afghan border.

predominant in Iran. Afghanistan is ruled by the Sunni Muslim Taliban militia which has been locked in a war of words with Iran over the deaths of Iranian diplomats and a journalist caught up in factional fighting in northern Afghanistan six weeks ago. As forces massed on Iran's rugged eastern border, the country prepared to mark the 18th anniversary of an attack by its western neighbour Iraq, which sparked an eight-year war in which up to a million people were killed and wounded. On Sept. 22, 1980, border skirmishes erupted into a full-scale Iraqi troop invasion and Iraqi warplanes attacked Tehran's Mehrabad International Airport, which is used for both civilian and military aviation.

Air raid alarms are due to sound throughout the country on Tuesday marking the start of "Sacred Defence Week." In New York, Kharrazi said Monday's meeting with the foreign ministers of the United States, Pakistan, China, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan was a good opportunity for Iran to follow its policies and to seek a political solution to the crisis in Afghanistan. Kharrazi was also quoted by Iranian television as saying that Iran reserved the right to use any means to safeguard its national interests and rights. He reiterated Tehran's demand that the Taliban return the bodies of two Iranian diplomats and free dozens of detained Iranians. Kharrazi also said the Taliban must arrest and extradite those responsible for the killing of the Iranians whose bodies were flown home a week ago. Iran's command headquarters said on Monday the armed forces were ready "to thwart the conspiracies of global arrogance," the official news agency IRNA reported. It accused "global arrogance" — a term usually applied to the United States and other Western powers — of instigating and supporting "the barbaric Taliban militia in Afghanistan." "The powerful armed forces of the Islamic republic follow the enemies' moves closely and are on alert to act on the order of their supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, to defend the nation's rights and to repel any aggressions," IRNA said. Units of Iran's half-million-strong armed forces would march throughout the country on Friday as part of "Sacred Defence Week," the agency said. Forces including the Revolutionary Guards and the regular armed forces as well as police and Basij volunteer militia are to display their latest military hardware. In Tehran, the parade will be held at Azadi (Freedom) Square, focal point of all large gatherings after the 1979 revolution, in the presence of high-ranking military and civilian officials, IRNA added.

## Senior Palestinian official's car blown up

GAZA CITY (AFP) — A high-ranking Palestinian official's car was blown-up in what may have been a dispute within the Palestinian National Authority government, Palestinian sources said Monday. The parked car belonging to General Ahmed Al Qidwa was blown-up before dawn in the Tal Al Hawa quarter on Thursday. No one was injured in the blast. Qidwa, also known as Hajj Mudag, is a distant cousin of Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and is in charge of the Palestinian Olympic Committee and issues relating to promotions within the security forces. The cause of the explosion remains unknown. Several eyewitnesses have suggested it was a bomb, while others said it was an arson attack that resulted in the petrol tank exploding. Others have said it was a grenade attack. Palestinian security forces have refused to comment, but sources say the explosion may have been the result of a dispute over promotions within the security forces. The sources ruled out that the attack could have come from Palestinian opposition groups such as Hamas.

## Instructions for viewing the web site of His Majesty King Hussein I

Get the required software

• For optimal viewing of the site, the visitor must use either Netscape Communicator 4.04, or better, or Microsoft Explorer 4.01, or better. Any person having difficulty viewing the site should follow any of the following instructions:  
a) Download the required software from the Internet. These are available at [www.netscape.com](http://www.netscape.com) or [www.microsoft.com](http://www.microsoft.com). These are all free of charge.  
OR  
b) Contact your Internet Service Provider (ISP) and ask them to supply you with the required software.

### Screen settings

• The optimal and standard screen settings for your computer should be 800x600. If items on the web site appear large and there are scrolling bars, you will need to reset your screen settings to 800x600. To do that use the following instructions:-  
1. Go to the "Start" menu of your operating system (Windows 95).  
2. Go to the "Settings" option and choose "Control Panel".  
3. Go to the "Display" section and choose "Settings".



The Office of His Majesty King Hussein I  
http://www.kinghussein.gov.jo

• The web site of His Majesty King Hussein I was designed and produced using the latest technologies available on the Internet.  
• Web site statistics indicate that there are over 400,000 hits generated by visitors to the web site in the last two days alone. Keeping in mind that the site is not being officially promoted outside Jordan nor on the promotional engines available on the web.  
• King Hussein's web site will be advertised and promoted in several phases. The first step is to introduce it to the Jordanian people. This will be followed by a comprehensive plan to market the web site to the world.

4. Change your screen settings to 800x600.  
• If the colours of your screen don't appear to be clear or the photos are not sharp, follow the instructions (1-4 above) and then change the colour settings to "High" or "True" colour.  
Fonts  
If you find the font on the web site small, you can enlarge it as follows:-  
One) For Netscape users, go to View/Increase Font.  
Two) For Explorer users, go to View/Fonts.



## Turks powerless to stop missile shipments — minister

ANKARA (R) — An international agreement prevents Turkey from stopping Russian-made S-300 missiles being shipped to Cyprus through the Bosphorus and Dardanelles straits, the shipping minister said on Monday.

"We have no authority to do anything about the S-300s... Under the Montreux Convention, any ship under

any flag carrying any cargo has the right to pass," Burhan Kara told reporters.

The internationally-recognized Greek Cypriot-led government in Cyprus is expected to take delivery of the anti-aircraft missile system in November.

Turkey says the missiles are a threat to it and to the breakaway Turkish Cypriot state in northern Cyprus and

has said it might use force to prevent their deployment.

Turkish authorities have stopped and searched two vessels passing through the Bosphorus on suspicion of carrying the missile system. Both vessels were later released.

In June, the Foreign Ministry ordered customs officials to release one halted cargo ship, citing the 1936

Montreux Convention which guarantees free passage to all vessels.

Kara said a \$40-million radar system to help regulate traffic through the congested straits would be in operation by the end of 1999.

In 1997, more than 50,000 vessels used the straits linking the Black Sea with the Mediterranean.

## Morocco bans rights rally against Tunisia

RABAT (R) — Moroccan authorities on Monday banned a rally in solidarity with human rights activists and political prisoners in neighbouring Tunisia, Moroccan human rights activists said.

The Rabat-based Bar Association and the Moroccan Human Rights Association (AMDH) had invited lawyers and activists from Europe, the United States and Arab countries to attend a meeting to discuss the situation in Tunisia.

"The authorities have informed us that we could not hold a meeting about human rights matters in Tunisia," a spokesman for the bar association told Reuters.

Police and intelligence security officers blocked all roads leading to the Bar Association near the centre of the capital where the meeting was due to take place, a spokeswoman for the Moroccan Human Rights Association said.

Participants were due to gather outside parliament and march to the Tunisian embassy to deliver a letter of protest to Tunisian President Zine Abidine Ben Ali.

"The letter deals with violations of human rights and freedom of speech in Tunisia in general, and the case of lawyer Khemiss Ksila in particular," Ahmed Benjelloun, a lawyer and human rights activist told Reuters.

Ksila was sentenced in September 1997 to three years in jail because "he insulted the Tunisian political regime," the authorities had said at the time.

His wife was expected to address the Rabat meeting over the deteriorating health conditions of her husband, Benjelloun added.

Interior ministry officials were not immediately available for comment.

## Israel 'tested nuclear bombs' before 1967 war

By Christopher Walker

ON THE eve of the 1967 Middle East war, Israel turned its nuclear capability into two crude but deliverable nuclear weapons, according to a politically explosive new book tracing its still-unadmitted growth as a nuclear power.

Efforts by the government of Benyamin Netanyahu to prevent publication of "Israel and the Bomb," by Avner Cohen, an Israeli exile, or at least have it subjected to military censorship, have failed. It is due to be published next month by Columbia University Press.

Leaks have caused embarrassment to Israel on the eve of the U.N. General Assembly in New York, where Netanyahu will be lobbying to prevent nuclear materials and expertise, especially Russian, from reaching Israel's Islamic enemies.

Quoting the book, the Tel Aviv newspaper Haaretz disclosed: "At the time of the [1967] war, Israel had in its

arsenal two improvised atomic bombs. It was then engaged in developing the Jericho missile, with its capacity for carrying a nuclear warhead.

"The first test of the missile in 1965 proved to be a failure, but a second try, in March 1966, succeeded. But the missile was not yet considered operational in June 1967 when the war broke out. Nevertheless, some elements in the defence establishment were in favour of conducting a nuclear bomb test in order to deter the Arabs."

Cohen, a senior research fellow at the National Security Archive at America's George Washington University, said Levi Eshkol, then prime minister, vetoed the idea, fearing international repercussions.

The new book, based on 10 years of research, claimed that one Israeli official who favoured the test option was Shimon Peres, the former Labour prime minister and Nobel laureate.

Because Cohen, who lives near Washington, never signed the Official Secrets Act and claims to have only used published material, he rejects claims that he is a modern version of Mordechai Vanunu, now serving 18 years for giving Israel's nuclear secrets to The Sunday Times in 1986.

"I vigorously reject the comparison," Cohen said. "My book is a work of legitimate academic research. It reveals no state secrets. Anybody who says I am Vanunu's twin is acting out of evil impulses, ignorance, provocation, or all three together."

The book, which traces Israel's growth as a nuclear power between 1950 and 1970, discloses a serious U.S. intelligence lapse in the late 1950s when, for three years, it failed to recognise that the complex being built in the southern Negev desert town of Dimona was a nuclear facility.

— The Times of London

## Draft regulations governing public-sector physicians completed

By Suha Ma'ayeh

AMMAN — A "mini" committee has finalised drafting regulations on ways to bridge the gap between incentives and pensions offered to Health Ministry physicians and their counterparts working in other public sector hospitals.

The seven-member technical committee, formed by the Health Ministry late last year, recently finalised the draft and will refer it to a 60-member committee for the final say.

The committee will then send the draft regulations to the Jordan Medical Association for its stamp of approval. The regulations will take effect after receiving Health Ministry endorsement, according to Bassam Kiswani, JMA rapporteur who is also coordinating the work of the two committees.

Health Ministry doctors have been complaining for years that their counterparts at the army-

run Royal Medical Services and at Jordan University Hospital receive much better incentives and pensions. These discrepancies, a simmering point for decades, led public physicians to stage protests in 1989.

"Doctors are also asking for permission to work in private clinics after their official working hours end," Kiswani told the Jordan Times.

"But that has to be based on special regulations to organise the operation," he added.

Kiswani said a specialist at Jordan University Hospital could earn JD28,000 in extra income over six months from after-hours work.

A Health Ministry doctor does not earn more than JD200 in overtime allowances, while a specialist at Jordan University Hospital can make much more from working overtime.

According to rules in place since 1965, Health Ministry doctors are barred from opening

private clinics and from taking part-time jobs after their official working hours end.

The rule was prompted by efforts to achieve equality between ministry doctors, who were allowed to work in the private sector after their working hours ended, and army doctors, who were prohibited from private work.

"Doctors want the government to establish equanimity in the allowances and to raise their basic salary by 30 per cent," Kiswani said.

Drawing comparisons, Kiswani said that in 1977, a specialist appointed by the Health Ministry received a basic salary of JD490 a month, compared to JD440 in 1998.

Health Ministry doctors are also demanding that their pensions be raised by two-thirds calculated on the basic salary, especially since allowances are excluded from the pension, according to Kiswani.



LEBANESE AUDIENCE FOR CLINTON: Lebanese men in a pub on Beirut's fashionable Hamra street Monday listen to the testimony of U.S. President Bill Clinton before a grand jury in August as it is broadcast live. More than four hours of the testimony began rolling less than two hours before the American leader addressed world leaders gathered at the United Nations (AFP photo)

## Refinery destroying unfit gas cylinders

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company is destroying 200,000 gas cylinders that are either worn out or do not conform to specifications, company Director General Abdul Wahab Zou'bi said.

In an interview with the Arabic daily Al Aswaq published Monday, Zou'bi added that the company will replace the destroyed cylinders with an equal number of new ones to meet market demand.

Zou'bi said some of the estimated 2.5 million cylinders on the market may be dented, rusty or worn out, and unable to hold gas tight. He advised the public not to buy these cylinders.

The new cylinders conform to the specifications of the Royal Scientific Society and the company. According to Zou'bi, three types of cylinders are now on

the market: those manufactured at the company's factory, those bought from other sources, and cylinders in circulation before the company assumed filling operations as well as cylinders smuggled into the country. It is the third category that does not conform to the set specifications, he said.

The decision to scrap the old cylinders was taken in conjunction with the Finance Ministry, the Civil Defence Department and the Department of Standards and Metrology, he added.

Zou'bi noted that a company team is responsible for inspecting cylinders that are returned to the refinery to be refilled and removing those that are found unfit.

He said \$50 gas cylinder distributors currently operate in Jordan, but the company is introducing new regulations to ensure stricter safety controls over the distribution process.

## Egypt turns down licence for moderate party

CAIRO (AFP) — A government committee on Monday turned down a moderate Islamic party's request for official approval, the Egyptian news agency MENA reported.

The Al Wassa' Al Masri (Egyptian Centre) party was founded by Abu Al Ela Madi, a former executive member of the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood, who told AFP he would appeal the decision.

The committee which is made up of cabinet ministers and pro-government figures did not provide reasons for its deci-

sion. But Madi told AFP that the committee "rejects the formation of new parties and argues that in general their political programs are not different from those of parties which already exist."

Madi said his party's programme was based on a moderate concept of Islam which does not differentiate between men and women and between Coptic Christians and Muslims. He stressed that three Copts and 15 women were among the party's founding members.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Ministry allocates JD350,000 for tourism

JERASH (Petra) — Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Akel Biltaji announced Monday that the ministry has allocated JD350,000 to municipalities rich in touristic and archaeological sites. Speaking during a visit to Jerash governorate, Biltaji said: "The ministry realises the important role of these municipalities. Therefore, we have to support them, and the ministry has already allocated part of its budget for these municipalities." The minister added that JD30,000 was allocated to Jerash governorate.

### Press group sets up committees

ISTANBUL (AP) — A press group decided Monday to move forward with a proposal to establish an international code of ethics for journalists and an international media council to deal with press-related complaints. At a briefing ending a three-day conference of journalists and media experts from around the world, the organizer, the World Association of Press Councils, said two working committees would work on the possibility of writing up an ethics code and a body to see that it is respected. A third committee is charged with drafting a model for independent press councils. Press councils, some 30 of which exist in the world, are organisations that rule on complaints from and against the press. The committee working on the possible creation of this body will advise on the "feasibility of establishing, financing and, attracting wide media and especially public support for a voluntary mechanism for the mediation and resolution of transnational complaints," said David Flint, chairman of the world association, who will also lead this working group.

### Israel arrests student member of Hamas

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli security forces beat and then arrested a student member of Hamas, witnesses said Monday. The incident took place on Sunday at Al Quds university in Abu Dis, a suburb of east Jerusalem in the West Bank which is under Israeli control. Abdul Razek Anuri, a third year chemistry student, was leaving the campus with two friends when a white car suddenly drew up next to them. Five people in civilian clothes got out of the car, accosted the three students and began to hit them, before leading Anuri away.

### Court frees Kurd party boss pending trial

ANKARA (R) — A Turkish judge released the leader of the country's main non-violent Kurdish party on Monday pending a final verdict on charges of membership of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) guerrilla group. "As the completion of the trial will take a long time... it has been decided that all the suspects are to be set free," Judge Turgut Okyay told the Ankara State Security Court. Murat Bozlak, head of the Peoples' Democracy Party (HADEP) and his four colleagues face minimum jail terms of over 22 years if they are convicted of PKK membership.

## JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 4773111-19

### PROGRAMME TWO

15:10 .....Cartoon — The Pink Panther  
15:30 Small Talk — "Quiz Show"  
16:00 .....Drama — Neighbours  
16:30 .....Doc. — Life Choices  
17:00 .....Doc. — Royal Blood  
18:00 .....French Programmes — Les Coeurs Brulés  
19:00 .....Le Journal  
19:15 .....French Programme — Fractales  
19:30 .....News headlines  
19:35 Step by Step — "Major Rain"  
20:00 .....What Would You Do?  
20:30 .....Encounter  
21:10 Mini-series — The Ambassador (Ep.1)  
22:00 .....News in English  
22:30 .....Lonesome Dove  
23:59 Feature film — Man Hattan Moon Shine  
01:30 .....End of T.X.

### PRAYER TIMES

04:01 .....Fajr  
05:19 .....(Sunrise) Duha  
11:28 .....Dhuhr  
14:56 .....Asr  
17:38 .....Maghreb  
18:56 .....Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church  
Swaffield, Tel. 5920740  
Assemblies of God Church Tel.  
4632785

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

St. Joseph Church Tel. 4624590

Terra Sancta Church Tel. 4622366

Anglican Church Tel. 4624853/4624811

St. Aftem Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 4771751

Amman International Church Tel. 5865897

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 5688404

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 5811295

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Tel. 4654932

St. John the Baptist at De la Salle College Tel. 5661757

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 4637440

Greek Orthodox Church Tel. 4646138

Church of Presentation, Swaffield Tel. 5930146

The United Catholic Church Tel. 4624757

The English-Language Catholic Parish Tel. 4614190

Evangelical Free Church Tel. 4892679

The Baptist Church Tel. 4628052

The Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 4771331

The American Orthodox Church Tel. 4775261

### ment of Meteorology

Fine weather conditions will prevail during the day becoming cool at night with temperatures below average by three degrees centigrade. Clouds will appear at low altitudes and winds north-westerly moderate to active. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate to active, and seas calm.

### Azuzan

Amman 28, Aqaba 34 Humidity readings: Amman 42 per cent, Aqaba 40 per cent.

Following are the highest temperatures expected today in the following areas:

Ajloun .....23

Jerash .....29

Um Qays .....29

Madaba .....29

Petra .....29

Dead Sea .....36

### Yesterday's high temperatures:

Amman 28, Aqaba 34 Humidity readings: Amman 42 per cent, Aqaba 40 per cent.

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Ajloun .....23

Jerash .....29

Um Qays .....29

Madaba .....29

Petra .....29

Dead Sea .....36

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

### NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:  
Dr. Abdul Hadi Tayyib .....4630115  
Dr. Wisam Hazyin .....4748563

Dr. Hani Al Ahmad .....4394336

Dr. Mukhlis Mizahab .....5150312

Al Asena pharmacy .....4637055

Al Salam pharmacy .....4636730

Shmeisani pharmacy .....4637660

Natroukh pharmacy .....4623672

IRBID:  
Dr. Issam Salih .....246858

Al Quds pharmacy .....(—)

ZARQA:  
Dr. Ziyad Jghalim .....992991

Khalifeh pharmacy .....985417

Overseas Calls .....010230

Central Amman Telephone Repairs .....4621101

Abdali Tel. Repairs .....5661101

Jordan Television .....4773111

Radio Jordan .....4774111

Water Authority .....5680100

J. Electricity Authority .....5815615

Electric Power Co. ....4636381

RJ Flight Information .....44-53200

Queen Alia Int. Airport .....44-53200

AMMAN:  
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery .....5921199

The Islamic, Abdali .....5666131/7

Hussein Medical Centre Tel. ....5856856

Luzmila .....4630195

Khalidi Maternity .....4642816

Akileh Maternity .....4642412

Jabal Amman Maternity .....4642362

Malhas, J. Amman .....4636140

Palestine, Shmeisani .....5607071

Shmeisani Hospital .....5669131

University Hospital .....5353444

Al-Muasher Hospital .....5667279

Al-Ahli, Abdali .....5664164

Italian, Al-Muhajreen .....4771013

Al-Bashir .....4775111/26

Army, Marka .....4891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital .....5602405/80

Amal Hospital .....5674155

ZARQA:  
Food Control Centre .....4637111

Civil Defence Department .....5661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue .....4630341

Rescue Police 192 .....4621111

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Jabal Amman Maternity .....4642362

Malhas, J. Amman .....4636140

Palestine, Shmeisani .....5607071

Shmeisani Hospital .....5669131

University Hospital .....5353444

Al-Muasher Hospital .....5667279

Al-Ahli, Abdali .....5664164

Italian, Al-Muhajreen .....4771013

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Queen Alia Hospital .....5602405/80

Amal Hospital .....5674155

ZARQA:  
Food Control Centre .....4637111

Civil Defence Department .....5661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue .....4630341



## Victim's father refuses to drop charges against accused teen killer

By Rana Hussein

AMMAN — The father of 30-year-old Jamal Turk, who was killed in a grizzly murder that involved an entire family last June, Monday refused to drop charges against defendant Sa'ed Qashash in a tearful testimony at the Criminal Court.

Qashash, who faces 12 counts of premeditated murder, confessed to killing his mother, father, other family members and his school friend Atta Sha'lan, on June 10, because they were harassing him about his academic performance.

Mohammad Abdul Hamid Turk, 68, told the court that he is the father of his son, his daughter-in-law Insaif, 27, and his grandchildren Hala, two, and Zaid, three, from the newspapers.

When asked by the court if he wished to drop charges, Turk said no and started weeping.

Before leaving the court room, Turk looked at Qashash, who was standing behind bars wearing a white and red kufiyeh, and told him, "May God take revenge on you."

Qashash showed no remorse. Last week, both the defendant's sister and Atta's father also refused to drop charges against the defendant.

If convicted, Qashash could face the death penalty. Other victims in the June 10 mass murder included Qashash's mother Thaurayah, 50, his father Amin, 57, his sisters Karimah, 25, Mirvat, 17, and Wafa, nine, as well as his brothers Mohammad, 30, and

Mustafa, 17.

Last week, Qashash pleaded not guilty and declared he was mentally competent to stand trial after his court-appointed lawyer attempted to refer him to psychiatrists.

According to the prosecution charge sheet, the suspect allegedly lured the victims one after the other to the basement of the family's house in the Biryat village south of Amman, and shot each of them while they had their backs to him, then piled their bodies and sealed the basement doors with bricks and cement.

The court tribunal, presided over by Judge Mohammad Ajameh and including Mifteh Mubaidin and Issa Hamdan, set the next session for Sept. 27 to hear more prosecution witnesses.

## 'Culture of shame' an overrated cause of unemployment — study

By Ghaila Alul

AMMAN — The "culture of shame" allegedly preventing many Jordanians from taking up menial jobs is not a major cause of rising unemployment, participants at the National Unemployment Conference agreed on Monday.

Previous governments, especially that of former Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, often attributed the failure of Jordanians to engage in low-paid and menial jobs such as garbage collection, sanitary operations and domestic help to a social phenomenon that has become known as the culture of shame.

But participants at the three-day seminar, which opened on Sunday, said the absence of a minimum wage and job incentives such as social security and health insurance have forced many to shun these professions.

In addition, many job-seekers felt their university specialisation did not match what was offered in the market.

"Less than one per cent of unemployment is a result of some Jordanians' refusal to take up menial jobs," Hashemite University Professor Mohammad Odatat told the conference. "This percentage does not justify all the noise that we hear about shame culture and its impact on unemployment in Jordan," he said.

"There are many other factors that prevent Jordanians from working, such as low salaries, lack of job security as well as their failure to find jobs in line with their university specialisation," he said in a study on reasons preventing

Jordanians from accepting some jobs.

The study found that only 25 per cent of unemployed Jordanians said they would not take up any of the jobs listed by the survey because they considered them inferior.

The list of jobs included working in bakeries, hotel housekeeping, waiters/waitresses, carpenters, electricians, sanitary staff, barbers, animal breeders, and craftsmen.

Odatat said women formed 51 per cent of the 25 per cent who refused to take up any of the jobs listed because they were not in line with their specialisation, he added. "Hence, should we not justify their refusal?" Odatat asked.

His study called for replacing foreign workers with local unemployed labourers on the grounds that most of those interviewed showed willingness to take up jobs held by the foreign workforce.

"Since more than one-third of foreign workers have craft occupations, we could replace them with unemployed Jordanians wanting to take similar jobs after providing them with the necessary training," Odatat said.

The conference is being held amid rising demands by the General Federation of Jordanian Trade Unions to crack down on the more than 300,000 foreign workers, many operating illegally in the country.

"If the Labour Ministry has information that more than

## Conference participants warn globalisation may increase country's unemployment

By Mohammad Ben Hussein

AMMAN — Participants at the National Unemployment Conference Monday warned that globalisation may force local manufacturers out of business and leave many Jordanians jobless.

"With economic globalisation, local investors will face a severe challenge in raising the quality of their products to international standards and increasing productivity, or they will have to close down," Abdul Nour Habaibe of the Amman Chamber of Industry said. "This would cause many Jordanians to lose their jobs."

Jordan has signed an association agreement with the European Union with the aim of establishing free trade by the year 2010.

Jordan is also engaged in negotiations to accede to the World Trade Organisation. The country hopes to join next year.

"Globalisation will invade our markets and destroy Jordan's economy, and mostly its industries," said Nabil Sharif, chairman of the meeting and former minister

of information.

Habaibe said the international community should increase its contributions to assist Jordan in its efforts to increase the competitiveness of its industrial sector, which employs the majority of the local workforce.

"Jordanian workers constitute up to 90 per cent of the working force in this sector, which needs more workers than any other sector," said one participant.

Turning to the Labour Law, the vice president of the General Federation of Trade Unions, Fathallah Emrani, presented a paper pressing for a minimum wage and for introducing changes to some parts of the law to help improve working conditions.

Emrani also pushed for amendments to introduce clearer interpretations to ambiguities in article 31 of the Labour Law, which set conditions under which workers can be dismissed.

According to article 31, employers can fire employees on an open contract or suspend their contracts

under certain conditions, such as financial and technical problems.

"The government should put tougher controls on arbitrary dismissals, and employers should consult with the Ministry of Labour and the federation before taking any step," he said.

Emrani also called for a minimum wage to help curb unemployment, officially estimated at 15 per cent and independently at 27 per cent.

Most participants at the session agreed that a minimum wage would attract more unemployed Jordanians to a market saturated with foreign workers, who make up 22 per cent of Jordan's workforce and accept very low salaries with little or no benefits such as health insurance and social security.

However, an official of the Ministry of Labour said the ministry has already introduced a minimum wage draft law to the Cabinet for discussion.

Participants also called for establishing an unemployment insurance fund to help persons seeking jobs.

## Poll finding dissatisfaction with House's performance raises researchers' doubts

By Francesca Ciriaci

AMMAN — At a time when deputies say they will grant the government a six-month trial period before assessing the effectiveness of its policies, their own constituencies do not appear as confident towards them, at least according to a recent opinion poll conducted by an Arabic daily.

The poll, which independent statisticians warn should be taken with a grain of salt, found that 67 per cent of Jordanians gave a thumbs down to the performance of the Lower House during the first year of its term.

According to Al Arab Al Yawm, which conducted the poll and published it on Monday, the most dissatisfied constituency is Ma'an — where 87.5 per cent of the interviewees were critical of the current Parliament.

The southern city, the scene of anti-Western riots, during last February's U.N.-Iraq stand-off over arms inspections, was followed by the outlying districts of Mafrqa, Madaba, Ajlun, Balqa and Tafleh in order of dissatisfaction, the survey said.

According to the poll, 51 per cent of Jordanians would support the dissolution of Parliament and early elections, while 67 per cent of interviewees considered the 13th Parliament weaker than the previous one.

Deputies reacted angrily to the poll, describing it as part of a media campaign targeting them, while independent statisticians questioned the methodology and consequently the credibility of the poll.

Al Arab Al Yawm explained that "in choosing the national sample [for the poll], it depend-

ed on the main sample that was designed by the Department of Statistics for the 1994 census. But this did not convince statisticians and researchers interviewed by the Jordan Times yesterday, who insisted that only the Department of Statistics has the ability to provide random samples for surveys in the country."

Deputy Nayef Mula, who was head of the Public Opinion Analysis Department at the Ministry of Information and a trained pollster, argued that no survey could be considered transparent and credible unless the error margin is stated and ranges below +/- 3.5 per cent.

"I remember one of the most useful books I studied, entitled 'How to lie with statistics,'" he commented.

"I have some doubts about how scientific the procedures followed were," said Hani Hourani, director of Al Urdun Al Jadid Research Centre.

"However, although I cannot judge or agree on the percentages, the results may still reflect the general opinion on this Parliament," he added.

The poll suggested that satisfaction levels would be inversely proportional to the educational background of the interviewees, with 76.5 and 75 per cent of graduates and post-graduates, respectively, leading the ranks of Parliament's critics.

The 13th Parliament did not have an easy start. It was returned in elections marred by widespread allegations of vote rigging and by the boycott of the opposition parties, protesting a "steady erosion of parliamentary authority under successive governments."

The reasons for the dissatis-

faction of those polled were: the government's control over the House (23 per cent); deputies' aspirations to reach ministerial posts (18 per cent); restrictions imposed on opposition deputies (15 per cent); deputies' failure to tackle social problems (11 per cent); or all the above (seven per cent).

The 595 individuals aged 19 and above interviewed by Al Arab Al Yawm cited a number of issues which they considered had not been properly handled by the House, such as the ratification of the one-person, one-vote system (64 per cent) and the endorsement of the Press and Publications Law (70 per cent).

Seventy-nine per cent of the respondents expressed dissatisfaction with the way the 80-member Lower House tackled economic issues in general, while 70 per cent said deputies had not done enough about the water crisis, which dried up taps in Amman during July and August.

"I really do not know what more people wanted us to do," commented an incredulous Salameh Haiyari, one of the deputies who most vocally countered the previous government over the water crisis as head of the House's Agriculture and Irrigation Committee.

At the peak of the water crisis in early August, the Lower House openly called for the resignation of the previous government of Abdul Salam Majali, a rare development in the country's politics.

"I did my best," Haiyari said. "Perhaps," he said, "at the time the survey was carried out (September 3-5), people had not yet seen that action was being taken."



MINISTER RECEIVES BAHRAINI AMBASSADOR: Minister of Information Nasser Judeh on Monday receives Bahraini Ambassador to Jordan Muhammad Ben Seif Jaber Al Mussallam (Petra photo)

## Doctors, House speaker meet over complaints with medical board

By a Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A delegation representing 60 physicians Monday presented Lower House Speaker Sa'd Hayel Srour with a memorandum listing their complaints about the composition and performance of the governing council of the Jordan Medical Board.

Deputy Mohammad Abu Hdeib, who attended the meeting along with seven other deputies, told the Jordan Times that the six-member delegation, representing public and private-sector doctors, submitted the list of grievances to Srour, who promised to refer the memorandum to the House's Health Committee. But no date has been set to discuss the issue, he added.

Haidar Madani, one of the delegation members, told the Jordan Times that their complaints focused on dissatisfaction with the board's governing council, which is chaired by the health minister in accordance with a 1983 law.

"The board's governing council has repeatedly violated the very regulations they drew up in 1983," said Madani. "One major violation is the council's disregard of a provision calling for council elections every three years."

Physicians or specialists wishing to join the board must hold a degree in a specialisation from a recognised university, according to the regulations.

But Madani said "the council members place every possible obstacle they can think of in the way of doctors seeking to join the board; although the applicants have acquired the required specialisation."

He maintained that the council insists that applicants obtain the highest degree or diploma awarded by their respective universities before they can be registered with the board as specialists.

"This condition is meant as an obstacle and an excuse

to turn down applications, even though the council realises that the specialisation degrees were awarded by world-recognised universities and medical institutions and despite the fact that the applicants are ready to sit for the board's examination," argued Madani.

Madani said members of the board's governing council do not all hold the highest degrees from the universities they graduated from and therefore are not fit to judge the qualifications of the 60-member group of doctors whose applications were turned down.

According to Madani, the group submitted a similar complaint to a department at the Prime Ministry five years ago but received no response.

Madani's charges were countered by Tawfiq Lobani, the board's secretary general, who said board membership was automatically granted to all physicians registered with the Jordan Medical Association as specialists before the law governing the board's formation was enacted.

"But doctors who had not registered as specialists with the association before the law was issued, although they were specialists, were not recognised as such by the board at the time," added Lobani.

"However, after a series of meetings between the council and the association president and its board, it was agreed that 36 out of almost 80 doctors who were not registered as specialists with the association before 1982 but whose papers prove that they are eligible for board membership will be fully accepted by the council at a meeting scheduled for next week," Lobani told the Jordan Times.

"The rest of the group were determined to be ineligible by a special committee which studied their respective cases and will not be accepted as members," he added.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

### LECTURE

\* "Regional Stability: A Future Outlook" by U.S. Speaker Judith Kipper at the American Center auditorium, Abdoun at 6:00 p.m.

### EXHIBITIONS

\* Paintings by Mohammad Halase entitled "A Tune and Colour" at the City Hall, Ras Al 'Ain (Tel. 4743158), until Sept. 30.

\* Display of Bani Hamida and Jordan River Designs products (rugs, cushions, wall-hangings, and quilts) at the Jordan River Designs showroom, until Sept. 30 (Tel. 4613081).

\* Photography exhibition entitled "Les Cite's d'Artistes a Paris" at the premises of the Association of the Jordanian Plastic Artists, Jabal Weibdeh, until Sept. 30.

\* Paintings by Rula Shukairy at the French Cultural Centre, Jabal Amman, until Sept. 30.

### DARAT AL FUNUN SUMMER 98 FESTIVAL

"Summer 98" cultural activities at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh, to last until Sept. 30, include:

### EXHIBITIONS

\* 50 years of graphic art from Lebanon and works by Jordanian artist Sahel Hiari at the Main House.

\* Works by Iraqi artist Samer Usama and by Jordanian artist Said Haddadin at the Blue House.

\* Installation works by Jordanian artist Samia Zaru at the Byzantine Church.

\* Exhibition of photographs "Memory of a Place" by Jordanian artist Hussein Da'seh at the Museum.

## 'New measures have limited drug trafficking'

By Ahmad Khatib

AMMAN — The government Monday said new measures by the Anti-Narcotics Department have limited drug trafficking and abuse over the last two years.

Minister of Information Nasser Judeh said the amount of heroin seized by the department from 1996 to 1998 equalled the amount seized during the previous 20 years.

"The drug problem in Jordan is serious but not alarming," Judeh told the press at a regular briefing yesterday. "Thanks to the new effective measures, the department is now more successful in combating drugs and rehabilitating people using them."

According to Judeh, in 1996 the department brought 326 drug-related cases before the authorities; 556 Jordanians and

100 other nationals were involved. In that year, 1,349 kilograms of hashish, 67.1 kg of heroin, 43.35 kg of opium, 1.1 kg of cocaine and around 25 million pills, including tranquilisers and stimulants, were seized.

In 1997, 492 drug cases were prosecuted; in these 701 Jordanians and 102 other nationals were reported to have been involved. In the same year, 894 kg of hashish, 82 kg of heroin, 22 kg of opium, 237 grammes of cocaine and around two million pills were seized.

This year, the department has so far prosecuted 336 drug-related cases involving 581 Jordanians and 48 other nationals. In its investigations, the department has seized 33 kg of hashish and 29 kg of heroin.

According to the minister, the rehabilitation centre, set up by the department in 1994, has

treated 283 substance abuse patients from 1995 to 1998. Thirteen, he said, were under the age of 20, 161 were between 20 and 29, 75 were 30-39, 32 were between 40 and 49, and three were over 50 years old.

"As the figures show, we are talking about huge drug amounts and dozens of addicts not hundreds," Judeh said.

Judeh added that "for many years Jordan was considered as a route for drug trafficking, especially in the eastern desert, but because of the effective measures being implemented on the ground, the government is catching a lot more [smugglers] than it had caught in the past."

Four years ago, His Majesty King Hussein sounded the alarm on Jordan's drug problem.

He said then that United Nations figures showed the

Kingdom had 7,000 drug abusers, hooked mainly on tranquilisers but also heroin.

"We are either ashamed or we are unable to talk about this problem and start finding solutions, be it through tougher measures against smugglers and dealers or setting up centres to treat addicts and save them," the King said. "But to remain shy and to keep silent, in my view, is a mistake we are committing against ourselves and our children."

Last December, the Anti-Narcotics Department disclosed that drug abuse had increased over the past few years and over 3,000 citizens were suffering from drug dependency.

Under the supervision of the department, the government announced in July that a hospital specialised in drug-related problems would open in Amman soon.

## Three accused of slander acquitted

By a Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Three brothers who have been standing trial on lese majeste charges were freed by the State Security Court on Monday.

The three brothers, Jamal Abed Ahmad, 35, Mustafa, 33, and Mohammad, 30, were found innocent of the charges by the court tribunal for "lack of evidence."

According to the charge sheet, two months ago, the three were arrested following a brawl and were charged with slandering His Majesty King Hussein.

Meanwhile, the State Prosecutor is interrogating two suspects on allegations of trafficking illicit drug while they were serving time in prison, according to a report in a local daily.

The two men put around 200 pills in balloons and swallowed them, "then they

would commit minor crimes to enter the prison," the report said.

It added that the matter was discovered after prison authorities received a tip that pills were hidden behind the heater in one of the cells.

This is the second such case to be reported by the authorities. In May 1998, the State Prosecutor referred six people to court on charges of drug dealing inside one of the state's prisons.

September 22, 1998



le Hamra street Monday it is broadcast live. More leader addressed world

## BRIEF

### 1,000 for tourism

Tourism and Antiquities Affairs ministry has allocated 1,000 Jordanian dinars to assist in tourism and antiquities. The ministry has allocated 1,000 Jordanian dinars to assist in tourism and antiquities. The ministry has allocated 1,000 Jordanian dinars to assist in tourism and antiquities.

### mittees

up decided Monday to move publish an international code of national media. The code will be a briefing ending a three-day media experts' meeting around the Association of Press Councils. The code will be a briefing ending a three-day media experts' meeting around the Association of Press Councils. The code will be a briefing ending a three-day media experts' meeting around the Association of Press Councils.

### ember of Hamas

ity forces beat and then arrested witnesses said Monday. y at Al Quds university in Abu the West Bank, which is under a third year curfew, student a, a third year chemistry student, people in civilian clothes beat students and began to hit them.

### boss pending trial

dge released the leader of the ish party on Monday pending a bership of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) membership. "As the completion of the trial decided that all the suspects are ay told the Ankara State Security face minimum jail terms of ad of PKK membership."

### Other Flights

12:00	Geneva, Frankfurt	BA
12:10	Paris	BA
12:15	Cairo	BA
13:05	Madrid	BA
20:15	Bahrain, Dhaka	BA
20:25	Jeddah	BA
20:40	Pakistan	BA
21:00	Abu Dhabi, Dubai	BA
06:25	Frankfurt	BA
09:00	Cairo	BA
13:30	Riyadh	SA
13:40	Aden	YH
14:15	Munch	YP
15:00	Istanbul	TK
16:20	Doha	BA
16:20	Doha	BA
18:05	Tel Aviv	LY
20:10	Beirut	ME
22:55	Beirut	ME
23:40	Beirut	ME
00:55	Bucharest	RO
03:00	Rome	AI
05:35	Lamaca	AI
06:30	Paris	BA
08:20	Londan	BA
07:00	Aqaba (from Marka Air port)	BA
08:30	Aqaba (from Marka Air port)	BA
16:30	Tel Aviv (from Marka Air port)	BA
20:30	Aqaba (from QALIA)	BA



# Spain PM seeks united response to ETA truce

MADRID (R) — Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar Monday launched a crucial round of talks with leading politicians aimed at forging a united front in response to a ceasefire by the Basque separatist group ETA.

Facing growing pressure to set aside doubts and seek a negotiated peace with ETA, Aznar first met one of his toughest critics, Socialist secretary-general Joaquín Almunia, in a closed-door session at the presidential palace.

The opposition Socialists, Spain's largest party after the ruling centre-right Popular Party, have chided Aznar for being caught off guard by ETA's announcement and failing to seize the initiative.

But officials said Aznar remained firm in his conviction that his government must not be rushed into a response to ETA's promise last Wednesday to end its bloody 30-year fight for Basque independence.

ETA's initiative, modelled on the Irish Republican Army's ceasefire in Northern Ireland, is considered the closest thing to a breakthrough in Spain in nearly a decade.

"Common sense dictates that we must avoid being hurried into a solution without having held a dialogue with everyone the government needs to consult," Justice Minister Margarita Mariscal de Gante said.

Aznar has greeted the unilateral rebel truce with scepticism, saying ETA cannot be trusted to honour it. But he has promised to be "flexible" if ETA proves it has truly renounced violence.

The daily El Mundo reported Sunday that, despite official doubts, ETA's leadership was prepared to maintain its truce for at least six months "no matter what happens".

It marks the first time the separatists have declared an unlimited truce since they turned to violence in 1968 to back their demands for an independent Basque state in northern Spain.

The last ETA ceasefire in 1996 ended after just a week.

Aznar cut short a visit to Peru to return to Madrid at the weekend for briefings with key ministers.

His meeting with Almunia was the first in a series of talks scheduled with the leaders of other major parties in an attempt to create a broad consensus across ideological lines.

But Basque nationalists, who helped secure the ETA ceasefire after months of negotiations with the guerrillas' political wing Herri Batasuna, have accused the government of stalling the process.

Interior Minister Jaime Mayor Oreja has ruled out any changes to Basque policy before regional elections to be held on Oct. 25 in the



Spanish Prime Minister José María Aznar (left) greets Socialist opposition leader Joaquín Almunia before their meeting at Moncloa palace. Aznar launched a crucial round of talks with leading Spanish politicians aimed at forging a united front in response to a ceasefire by the Basque separatist group ETA (Reuters photo)

three Basque provinces.

In the meantime, he has vowed that the government will continue its crackdown on ETA despite its pledge to stop killing.

Many Spanish politicians have urged Aznar not to miss the chance to start a long-awaited peace dialogue.

Former Socialist Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez acknowledged that ETA's move might be a trap but insisted it was "an opportu-

nity that must be accepted".

Public opinion has been bitterly divided in response to the ceasefire. Polls show most Basques think ETA's ceasefire is legitimate, while most Spaniards outside the region believe it is a

tactical trick. ETA, which stands for Basque Homeland and Freedom in the Basque language, is one of the last home-grown guerrilla groups still active in Western Europe.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Swedish PM cancels Clinton, Blair meeting

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — Swedish Social Democratic Prime Minister Göran Persson pulled out of Monday's "Third Way" conference with U.S. President Bill Clinton and British PM Tony Blair after suffering a severe setback in Sunday's general election. Persson pulled out of the international conference after his Social Democratic party won reelection but failed to secure a majority in parliament. The Swedish leader is now expected to engage in political talks at home in a bid to seek support for his beleaguered party. Swedish Foreign Minister Lena Hjelm-Wallén will replace Persson at the one-day conference, co-hosted by Clinton and Blair. The "Third Way" refers to their political ideology, half-way between free-market economics and socialism. Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi is also expected to attend the conference, while German Social Democratic leader Gerhard Schröder will not attend because of his country's Sept. 27 general election.

### Yavlinsky hospitalised with heart attack

MOSCOW (AFP) — Liberal Russian opposition leader Grigory Yavlinsky of the Yabloko faction has been hospitalised with a heart attack. ITAR-TASS reported Monday. Yavlinsky, 46, was hospitalised Friday evening, faction spokeswoman Yevgeniya Dillendorf told the news agency. Doctors said Yavlinsky's condition was improving and his life was not in imminent danger, the news agency reported. ITAR-TASS said Yavlinsky may be released from an unidentified hospital within three days. The opposition leader this month played a key role in steering the country out of political crisis by proposing Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov's candidacy to lead Russia's cabinet. Facing dissolution, parliament overwhelmingly approved Primakov's candidacy when both Yavlinsky's Yabloko faction and the Communists united behind the former foreign minister. Primakov last week asked Yavlinsky to work in the government as a first deputy prime minister in charge of social affairs. But Yavlinsky declined, citing his unwillingness to work side-by-side with Communist Party members who were also granted cabinet seats. He finished fourth in the first round of Russia's 1996 presidential elections and has since announced plans to run for the presidency in the next polls, scheduled for 2000. A radical monetarist in the first years of post-Soviet reform, Yavlinsky has been equally critical of the Kremlin's efforts at economic reform as well as state-intervention policies championed by the left. But he and his party have refused several offers to work in Russian governments, saying that Yabloko will not implement anybody else's policies but only its own.

### Chechen field commander predicts release of Russian envoy

MOSCOW (AP) — President Boris Yeltsin's personal envoy to Chechnya, who has been held captive in the republic since May, could soon be released, a former rebel field commander said Monday. Salman Raduyev, told the Interfax news agency that Valentin Vlasov, kidnapped at gunpoint on May 1, was likely to be set free and "returned to his family within a week," the Interfax news agency said. Raduyev, a field commander in the 1994-96 war for independence with Russia, said he had helped mediate the release Sunday of British hostages Camilla Carr and Jon James, who were kidnapped in July 1997. "I acted as a mediator in tackling this problem," he said. Raduyev also helped broker the release Saturday of two Russian soldiers, taken prisoner during the 1994-96 Chechen war. Russian television reported. "Talks on Vlasov's release are almost over and only a few issues still need to be settled," Raduyev told Interfax. "Vlasov will be released without any preliminary conditions and without the payment of a ransom." About 200 people, both military and civilian, have been kidnapped in Chechnya since the end of the war and are mostly being held for ransom, an official in Russia's presidential commission on prisoners of war told the ITAR-TASS news agency Monday. Another 794, including 689 Russian servicemen, are regarded as missing, presumed dead in Chechnya as a result of the war. Konstantin Golubovskiy said. He said about 10 Russian soldiers, taken captive during the war, are still being held as prisoners of war.

### Malaria kills 300,000 Nigerians a year

LAGOS (AFP) — Malaria kills about 300,000 Nigerians a year, a top health ministry official told a seminar here at the weekend, press reports said Monday. The director of the health ministry's national malaria programme, Dr. Ntadom, told the seminar that almost two in 10 Nigerian children die of the disease, the privately-owned newspaper This Day reported. The doctor said the disease attacks about 50 per cent of the people at some point in their lives.

### Japanese man arrested for filming girls with see-all video camera

TOKYO (AFP) — Japanese police arrested a 34-year-old man Monday for allegedly filming girls in swimsuits with a Sony video camera that can see through clothing, a police official said. Police alleged the man was taping the high school girls at a swimming competition in the central Japan city of Shizuoka on Aug. 25 from "unnatural" angles as they came out of the pool. The police official declined to disclose the type of video camera used by the man, saying it had not yet been officially confiscated. Sony removed five models of Handycam TRV video cameras from shop shelves in early August because the infrared technology they contained could see through clothing. The "night shot function," designed to allow taping of nocturnal animals and sleeping children in darkness, can be used to see through clothing in the daytime by attaching a filter for infra-red shooting to the lens. Users can see beneath wet swimsuits or the underwear of lightly dressed people when the equipment's night shoot mode is activated during daytime, magazines and gossip shows have said in a spate of reports. Sony has admitted the reported effects "under limited conditions". The electronics giant has already made an "architectural change" to the equipment so the remodelled version shows only a white screen if the night shot mode is used in daylight.

## Three China dissidents to run in local elections

BEIJING (R) — A group of three Chinese dissidents plan an unprecedented challenge to the Communist Party by standing in local elections in Beijing, a spokesman for the group said Monday.

Pro-democracy activists have not competed in an election as an organised group since the Communists came to power in 1949.

The move follows a bid by pro-democracy dissidents to register China's first opposition party under the banner of the China Democratic Party. Authorities appear to have slammed the door on the attempt.

The three dissidents who hope to run in Beijing's local polls are not linked with the unproved China Democratic Party.

Election officials say individuals can contest general elections in China if they meet certain criteria.

But Gao Hongming, one of the spokesmen for the dissidents' group, said he expected "trouble" from authorities over the bid.

Even if the dissidents are allowed to run, they concede they have little hope of success in year-end elections to Beijing's district and county People's Congresses.

The local congresses are part of a system of grassroots democracy that U.S. President Bill Clinton praised during his visit to China in June.

The three are Gao, 48, who is jobless, He Depu, 41, a tree planter, and Wang Zhixian, 49, a laid-off factory worker.

"I think my chances of winning are very small," said Gao, a former administrator with the Diplomatic Service Bureau, the organisation that provides staff to foreign embassies and news organisations in Beijing.

"But it is my right and duty," he said. Gao was sent to a labour camp in 1994 to undergo reeducation through labour for two years for "disrupting public order in society".

"We will be showing our faces as China's political opposition," Gao said. "We have common views and will try to help each other." He, a tree planter with the Beijing Academy of Social Sciences, ran in grassroots elections in the Chinese capital in 1980 but lost.

Wang, who took part in the 1978-79 Democracy Wall movement, was laid off from a loss-making state-owned company last year.

Beijing has 10 districts and eight counties with about eight million eligible voters.

The district and county people's congresses have about 5,000 members. 65-70 per cent of them Communist Party members.

Grassroots elections were first introduced in 1954, but were suspended during the chaotic 1966-76 Cultural Revolution before being reinstated in 1979.

Dissident Zhao Changqing was sentenced to three years in prison recently for "disrupting social order" after he ran in local People's Congress elections in Hanzhong city in northern Shaanxi province.

Thirteen dissidents who sought approval to set up the first branch of the China Democratic Party in Hangzhou, capital of eastern Zhejiang province, were arrested in July and later released.

Subsequent attempts to register the party in the cities of Jinan and Wuhan raised dissidents' hopes since authorities did not outright reject the applications.

But last week five dissidents were detained briefly in Beijing, Shanghai and eastern Shandong province when they tried yet again to register the party, a Hong Kong-based human rights group said Sunday.

The five were told their party was an "illegal organisation", according to the Information Centre of Human Rights and Democratic Movement in China.

## Students protest Suharto wealth probe delay; attorney general says ready

JAKARTA (AFP) — Student protesters called here Monday for an immediate probe into allegations former President Suharto had accumulated a fortune while in power. As Attorney General Andi Ghalib told parliament the probe would go ahead.

"Pak Harto (Suharto) is ready to meet with the (attorney general's) team. God willing soon. But until today we haven't found any evidence that his wealth is the result of corruption and collusion," Ghalib said.

He said Suharto would come to his office "if his health permits him," otherwise the questioning would take place in Suharto's residence in Jakarta's Cendana street.

As Ghalib faced parliament some 200 students protested outside to demand a thorough and comprehensive investigation of the allegations.

The students from several universities in Bandung, some 200 kilometres from Jakarta, waved posters and yelled slogans demanding the wealth of Suharto, his family and cronies be investigated.

If evidence of corruption were found, they should be brought to trial, the students said.

"I think it is only a technical problem that we have not met with Pak Harto (yet)," Ghalib said, answering MPs' queries as to why the interrogation, earlier billed for last week, had yet to begin.

Ghalib also said the enquiry would be extended to the ex-president's six children, all of whom are business tycoons, "if they are healthy and ... if they are involved."

Answering sharp criticism of a statement he made earlier this month that he believed Suharto when the former leader said he had "not one cent" in foreign accounts, Ghalib said he was only following the

principle of "innocent until proven guilty."

Anger has been mounting here since Suharto's "not one cent" claim was made on a TV station owned by his daughter on Sept. 6, both against the government's alleged footdragging on the interrogation and against Suharto.

Friday opposition reformist Amien Rais gave the government a deadline of two weeks in which to question Suharto and prove it was not just making a farce of the situation.

The students outside the parliament complex gate also demanded the government rapidly bring down prices of goods, including essentials.

One of the demonstrators, crawled on the road in front of the gate, carrying the national flag, symbolising the nation which was currently crippled by the worst economic turmoil it has faced in decades.

The students, unable to

enter the parliament compound because of the thick cordon of police and soldiers manning the gate, left peacefully after their protest.

A second group of demonstrators came later Monday to the parliament, some wearing headbands saying "Movement to Save the Nation," "Anti KKN solidarity," referring to the Indonesian acronym for corruption, collusion and nepotism, and "Muslim Students for Reform."

The protesters, according to witnesses, did not appear to have a main theme for their protest and aired a variety of demands and complaints instead.

The official Antara news agency said the demonstrators halted passing cars, hassling the drivers and passengers for money and cigarettes.

A joint security force of police and soldiers remained on guard inside the parliament compound but did not intervene.

## Hurricane Georges takes aim at Puerto Rico

CHARLESTOWN, Nevis (R) — A weaker but still menacing Hurricane Georges charged towards the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico Monday after pounding the small islands of the northeast Caribbean.

Georges ripped apart buildings, cut power and whipped up seas on Guadeloupe and Antigua. Rain and high winds also lashed Montserrat and Dominica, downing utility poles and trees, the British Broadcasting Corporation said.

To the west, people on Puerto Rico, still harbouring memories of the destruction wrought by Hurricane Hugo in 1989, emptied stores of bottled water, canned goods and other supplies and boarded up windows as the storm set its sights on their island.

"I feel we're in good shape for a response but I'm concerned for the people there," James Lee Witt, director of the Federal Emergency Management

Agency in Washington, said.

The National Hurricane Centre, in its 8 a.m. (1200 GMT) advisory, put the core of the tempest near latitude 17.5 north and longitude 63.7 West, about 120 km east of St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands and about 265 km east southeast of San Juan, Puerto Rico.

It was expected to move over the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico later Monday. Forecasters warned that the destructive winds covered a wide swathe.

Hurricane warnings now cover the northeastern Caribbean from the Dominican Republic to Dominica, meaning at least 4.6 million people are threatened with hurricane conditions within 24 hours.

"If you are anywhere in the warning area, you should prepare for the worst," the hurricane centre said.

Georges was packing maximum winds of 175

kph and moving at about 28 kph. It was downgraded to a Category 2 hurricane but was still dangerous, meteorologist Mark Demaria said.

"If it goes over Puerto Rico or the Dominican Republic it should weaken but if it just skirts them, then it is likely to strengthen," Demaria said.

Georges whacked the north of the French island of Guadeloupe Sunday night then passed about 65 to 80 km south of the French-Dutch possession of St. Martin.

A spokesman for emergency services in Guadeloupe reported heavy seas and rainstorms, and said winds were between 100-150 kph, less than had been feared.

"I can see roofs and houses flying," a witness on the island of Desirade, east of Guadeloupe, told French overseas radio at the height of the storm Sunday evening.

"There is a lot of wind, rain and the sea is rough," she said. There were no reports of casualties and damage had yet to be assessed, a spokeswoman for the French Overseas Territory's emergency unit in Paris said. Electricity was knocked out on several of the islands and telecommunications were disrupted.

On Antigua, a relatively flat island just northwest of Guadeloupe, residents initially reported howling winds but less rain than expected.

The storm is expected to pass over Hispaniola Tuesday and Wednesday and could reach Cuba by Thursday if it continues on its present course, Demaria said.

Florida residents were also growing edgy though forecasters said it was too early to tell if Georges would lurch their way.

"People on the (U.S.) east coast need to pay attention," Demaria said.



**A cancels  
ir meeting**

Swedish Social Democratic  
Persson pulled out of  
conference with U.S. President  
Clinton after suffering  
general election. Persson  
at a conference after his  
re-election but failed to  
ent. The Swedish leader  
political talks at home in a  
elected party. Swedish  
elms-Wallen will replace  
conference, co-hosted by  
third way" refers to their  
between free-market econ-  
Prime Minister Romanow  
end the conference, while  
leader Gerhard Schröder  
is country's Sept. 27 gen-

**ospitalised  
t attack**

eral Russian opposition  
of the Yabloko faction has  
heart attack. IYAR-TASS  
ky, 46, was hospitalized  
spokeswoman Yevgeniya  
agency. Doctors said  
improving and his life was  
ne news agency reported  
may be released from an  
three days. The opposition  
key role in steering the  
ris by proposing Prime  
ov's candidacy to lead  
solution, parliament over-  
makov's candidacy when  
action and the Communists  
oreign minister. Primakov  
to work in the government  
inister in charge of social  
ined, citing his unwilling-  
ith Communist Party mem-  
cabinet seats. He finished  
Russia's 1996 presidential  
ounced plans to run for the  
scheduled for 2000. A re-  
ears of post-Soviet reform,  
y critical of the Kremlin's  
as well as state intervention  
left. But he and his party  
to work in Russian govern-  
a will not implement any  
its own.

**nmander predicts  
ussian envoy**

ent Boris Yeltsin's personal  
has been held captive in the  
soon be released, a former  
Monday. Saman Raduyev,  
ency that Yeltsin visited  
May 1, was likely to be  
family within a week," the  
Raduyev, a field comman-  
independence with Russia  
ate the release Sunday of  
Carr and Jon James, who  
97. "I acted as a mediator in  
said. Raduyev also helped  
y of two Russian soldiers  
ne 1994-6 Chechen war.  
"Talks on Yeltsin's release  
a few issues still need to be  
interfax. "Yeltsin will be  
nary conditions and with-  
m." About 200 people, both  
have been kidnapped in the  
of the war and are mostly  
official in Russia's presiden-  
ay. Another 44, including  
re regarded as missing pro-  
a as a result of the war.  
d. He said about 10 Russian  
ing the war, are still being

**0,000 Nigerians  
/ear**

aria kills about 300,000  
alth ministry official told a  
ekend. press reports said  
ie health ministry's national  
adom. told the seminar that  
children die of the disease  
aper This Day reported. The  
cks about 50 per cent of the  
ir lives.

**rested for filming  
all video camera**

se police arrested a 34-year-  
edly filming girls in swim-  
amera that can see through  
said. Police alleged the man  
girls at a swimming competi-  
city of Shizuoka on Aug. 21  
as they came out of the pool  
ed to disclose the type of  
man, saying it had not yet  
Sony removed five models  
cameras from shop shelves  
nfrared technology they con-  
frared technology they con-  
clothing. The "night shot"  
ow taping of nocturnal an-  
in darkness. can be used to  
daytime by attaching a filter  
lens. Users can see beneath  
wear of lightly dressed per-  
night shoot mode is activated  
s and gossip shows have said  
y has admitted the reported  
"architectural change" to the  
elled version shows only a  
hor mode is used in daylight

**Police seize  
North Ireland  
bomb suspects**

DUBLIN (R) — Police  
hunting bombers who killed  
29 people in the Northern  
Irish town of Omagh last  
month arrested nine people  
Monday in dawn raids  
north and south of the Irish  
border.  
Three men aged between  
19 and 34 were seized in the  
Irish Republic while six  
were arrested in a dawn  
swoop in British-ruled  
Northern Ireland, police  
said.  
The suspects were held  
under tough new laws  
rushed through the British  
and Irish parliaments to  
crush splinter groups  
opposed to Northern  
Ireland's peace deal, signed  
in April.  
This includes the Real  
IRA, which broke away  
from the mainstream Irish  
Republican Army in oppo-  
sition to a ceasefire it called  
in July 1997.  
The Real IRA admitted  
planting the bomb in the  
Northern Irish market town  
— the deadliest attack in  
three decades of conflict  
over British rule in the  
province.  
The group issued confus-

**French cities ban cars  
in anti-pollution trial**

PARIS (R) — French  
pedestrians enjoy a  
brief revenge over  
motorists Tuesday as 35  
cities ban cars from cen-  
tral districts in a day-  
long experiment the  
government hopes will  
extend to other  
European Union coun-  
tries.  
Paris and several  
major cities suffering  
from worsening pollu-  
tion are risking the  
wrath of motorists to  
give citizens a breath of  
fresh air.  
The government  
wants the operation  
dubbed "Downtown,  
without my car" to turn  
into an annual event  
and trigger a public  
debate in this car-mad  
country on how to rid  
cities of traffic jams and  
exhaust fumes.  
"For decades, cities  
have been built for  
cars... we can't let  
things get out of control  
when we are close to  
asphyxia," Transport  
Minister Jean-Claude  
Gayssot told the daily  
Le Monde.  
Motorbikes, emer-  
gency services, doctors,  
taxis and electricity-  
powered cars will be  
exempt from the ban.  
Motorists are being  
encouraged to use pub-  
lic transport, and  
authorities in some  
towns will provide bicy-  
cles free of charge.  
Rouen, Nantes, Tours,



Flood victims in Bangladesh capital Dhaka wait in a queue for a share of cooked food delivered by volunteers. The floods, which have killed more than 1,200 people and left millions homeless, have been receding. Many victims have already left shelters trying to rebuild life in their wrecked homes, but they still faced shortage of food and clean water (Reuters photo)

**Bangladesh flood victims  
return to their homes**

DHAKA (R) — Families  
who took refuge in  
cramped shelters in  
Bangladesh's capital began  
returning home Monday as  
floodwaters which had  
inundated large areas of the  
city for more than two  
months receded, officials  
said.  
Dhaka residents had been  
asked by the authorities to  
vacate shelters as soon as  
possible, a disaster man-  
agement ministry official  
said.  
"We are not forcing any-  
one out but just saying they  
should go back as their  
homes are rising above the  
water," said the official,  
who declined to be identi-  
fied.  
Newspapers Monday  
reported that many families  
had already left shelters  
Sunday, apparently driven  
out by poor sanitation and  
spreading disease.  
"I have been thrown into  
a virtual sewer with filth,  
bad smell, flies and mos-  
quitoes," said Muslimuddin  
Mollah of Dhaka's eastern  
suburb of Madanik.  
He left his shelter with his  
wife and children and re-  
turned to his house.  
which had been under  
water for seven weeks.  
"I did not expect so much  
damage. All my wood fur-  
niture is beyond use. My  
refrigerator is not working  
while rats have eaten up  
virtually everything in my  
colour television," said  
Mollah, a government  
worker.  
Dhaka Mayor  
Mohammad Hanif said  
Monday some 6,000 clean-  
ers had been working  
round-the-clock, trying to  
remove huge piles of waste  
and garbage in the city.  
"While carrying out the  
cleanliness drive, special  
attention would be given to  
eradicator mosquitoes,"  
the official BSS news  
agency quoted him as say-  
ing.  
The floods, the most pro-  
longed natural disaster in  
Bangladesh, have killed at  
least 1,269 people and left  
millions homeless since  
beginning in early July.  
About half of Dhaka, a city  
of about nine million peo-  
ple, has been under water.  
The deluge, started by  
heavy rain and fed by water  
from upstream India, has  
caused huge damage to

**Kohl claws back in  
last week of campaign**

BONN (R) — Germany's  
Chancellor Helmut Kohl  
began his final week of elec-  
tion campaigning Monday  
with another poll showing he  
had clawed back to within  
two points of challenger  
Gerhard Schröder.  
"We have reasons for opti-  
mism," Kohl told a news  
conference to launch his  
Christian Democrats' appeal  
for Germany's 60 million  
voters to turn out Sunday.  
Kohl, 68, said the economy  
was picking up and that  
unemployment, the main  
issue in the campaign, was  
falling.  
Schröder's centre-left  
Social Democratic party dis-  
missed Kohl's final spurt as  
too little too late.  
"If they go on like this they  
will catch us up by spring  
next year," said SPD cam-  
paign manager Franz  
Münterfering.  
A poll by Dimap for ARD  
television showed the con-  
servative CDU climbing half  
a point to 38.5 per cent while  
the SPD was stuck on 40.5  
per cent.  
It was the third poll in a  
week showing the CDU had  
whittled away the SPD's lead  
from 12 points in April to  
just two points.  
Kohl, running for a record  
fifth consecutive term, has  
been buoyed by the strong  
showing of his party's  
Bavarian wing in a state elec-

**Allegations of MI6 misconduct  
handed over to government lawyer**

LONDON (AFP) —  
Allegations of "illegal activi-  
ties" by Britain's overseas  
intelligence agency MI6 were  
handed over Monday to the  
government's official lawyer,  
on behalf of a former MI6  
agent making the accusa-  
tions.  
John Wadham, lawyer for  
renegade spy Richard  
Tomlinson who fled Britain  
earlier this year, said he  
hoped the move will prompt  
the government to set up a  
full investigation.  
The allegations will also be  
passed to a parliamentary  
committee which scrutinises  
the security services.  
Outside the Official  
Solicitor's office in central  
London, Wadham refused to  
discuss the contents of the  
dossier but called on the gov-  
ernment to open an indepen-  
dent investigation into the  
claims.  
"Mr. Tomlinson would like  
to see something done about  
his allegations. He would like  
to know that the trouble he  
has been put to by being  
arrested wherever he goes in  
the world and being impris-  
oned in this country is going  
to result in some changes to  
MI6 where he used to work."  
"My overall concern is the  
inadequate accountability of  
the security services and  
that's why we are reduced to  
asking the government to  
investigate itself," Wadham  
said.  
Tomlinson was jailed last  
year for breaching the  
Official Secrets Act when he  
tried to find a publisher for  
his memoirs. Now living in  
Switzerland, he sent a letter  
containing the allegations to  
Wadham.  
At the weekend the Sunday  
Times reported that  
Tomlinson alleged that  
British intelligence planted a  
"mole" in the Bundesbank,  
the German central bank, to  
pass on information about the  
German economy.  
Tomlinson, who worked for



Art in the room —  
Gunmen Monday stole  
two works by  
Impressionist masters  
Claude Monet and Alfred  
Sisley after taking hostage  
the curator of the Nice arts  
museum in the south of  
France. The two hooded  
gunmen burst into the  
home of Jean Fornis at  
7:00 a.m. and forced him  
to drive them in his vehicle  
to the museum where they  
stole an 1890 Sisley entitled  
"Allé des peupliers" and  
an 1897 Monet, "Falaises  
de Dieppe". The pair took  
off in the curator's car. The  
security system was turned  
off at the museum when  
the attack took place ahead  
of opening time as museum  
staff were already in the  
building. The unsuspecting  
guard opened the door to  
the curator and was imme-  
diately tied up and gagged  
along with another muse-  
um employee and locked  
up in the library. Culture  
ministry official Xavier  
Girard said it would be  
impossible to sell the  
works, both oils measuring  
about 65 by 85 centimetres.

**Pakistan's Bhutto seeks  
Clinton help on Islamic law**

ISLAMABAD (R) —  
Pakistani opposition  
leader Benazir Bhutto  
sought U.S. President Bill  
Clinton's help Monday to  
stop Prime Minister  
Nawaz Sharif from pur-  
suing the implementation  
of his controversial  
Islamic law, her party  
officials said.  
In a letter to Clinton, on  
the day he is expected to  
meet Sharif in New York  
on the fringes of a U.N.  
General Assembly ses-  
sion, Bhutto asked  
Clinton to intervene to  
make Pakistan a moder-  
ate, democratic and toler-  
ant country.  
The letter, a copy of  
which was faxed to the  
media, attacked Sharif's  
policies after Pakistan  
conducted a series of  
nuclear tests in response  
to similar tests by arch-  
rival India in May.  
"The Nawaz regime is  
seeking to undermine our  
constitution through pas-  
sage of a bill under the  
guise of Sharia Law, a  
move which will concen-  
trate all powers into the  
hands of the prime minis-  
ter, degrade women, and  
remove all protections for  
ethnic and religious  
minorities," Bhutto  
wrote.  
The proposed constitu-  
tional amendment bill  
that Sharif wants parlia-  
ment to approve seeks to  
make the Koran and  
Sunnah, teachings of  
Prophet Mohammad, the  
supreme law of Pakistan.  
Critics of the bill say it  
will bestow extraordinary  
administrative and con-  
stitutional powers on  
Sharif.  
The prime minister  
denies the charge and  
says he wants to establish  
an egalitarian Islamic  
welfare state free of  
crime and corruption.  
Parliament is to resume  
debate on the bill later  
Monday but it will be few  
more days before it is  
voted on because Sharif  
and other cabinet minis-  
ters are outside the coun-  
try.  
"I assume that you will  
be discussing with Prime  
Minister Sharif the urgent  
matter of reducing ten-  
sions in South Asia.  
means to resolve the  
Afghan crisis, and terms  
for a potential economic  
assistance package for  
Pakistan in the post-  
nuclear era," she said.  
"While these are impor-  
tant issues, I must  
implore you to raise with  
Prime Minister Sharif the



## Jordan Times

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Editorial and Advertising offices  
Jordan Press Foundation,  
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Telephones: 5684311, 5699634, 5667171, 5603585

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## Getting it together

THE NATIONAL conference on unemployment was off to a good start Sunday when His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, urged the conferees not to limit their deliberations to the diagnosis of the crisis but to cut deeper by identifying operational ways to solve or at least ameliorate it. The Regent's recommendations came amidst reports that the organisers of the conference were bent on giving intermediate and long-term solutions just as much attention as immediate panaceas. When people are hungry, they could care less for delayed solutions, although effective resolution of the problem also requires permanent long-term solutions.

Thus, it is not surprising that there are those who cast doubt about the ability of the conference to come up with concrete ideas to satisfy the urgent and pressing needs of a big chunk of the labour force. The Ministry of Labour's submissions won no applause; they were replays of old tunes. Not only does the government cling to its figure of only 15% unemployment when it is common knowledge that the jobless rate is as high as 27, but appears to explain the rampant problem by way of worn out rationalisations.

Others see in the number of foreign labourers as a principal culprit. Then there were those who attributed the crisis in part to the so-called "culture of shame." So there is not even agreement yet on the extent or the nature of the unemployment phenomenon. This much we need to agree on before we can begin to prescribe immediate and then intermediate and long-term methods for rectifying the situation.

The business climate in the country has clearly been damaged by recent events in the Middle East. Lack of progress in the peace process has certainly cooled investment fever, and the continued sanctions on Iraq have hurt our exports. This is not to mention the overall deflationary international economic process.

There is no denying, however, that the restructuring of our economy along the lines proposed by international monetary agencies may have exasperated the labour intensive industries. We have noted time and again that a dramatic shift to free market economy causes dislocations and imbalances. In many countries the prompt change of economic course has contributed to the widening of the gap between the rich and the poor. Privatisation is a trend-setter but we have to recognise that this type of economic path does indeed add to the unemployment problem and calls for the incorporation of a social safety net.

While we cannot do a great deal about external influences, we certainly can do much more about the domestic scene. As Prince Hassan said, unemployment is not only about statistics but also about human beings who must be protected from hunger and anxiety. This much we must be willing to do right away.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i's Fahed Fanek criticised the government's policy statement on the economy, which he said did not come up with anything new. The government's statement was more a description than a discussion of the problem, he said, and although he was confident that the government will have a reform programme, he doubted it was ready. The statement affirmed the need to maintain the gains of the economic reform programme, which came as a result of large sacrifices from ordinary Jordanians, and reaffirmed the monetary policy of having to maintain the value of the dinar, added the writer. Fanek claimed the government will sign an investment agreement with the United States which has been ready for three years. He criticised the government for not paying enough attention to privatisation in its statement, claiming the government did not show much commitment to privatise the Jordan Telecommunication company, considered as the cornerstone of Jordan's economic credibility domestically and internationally, said Fanek.

Al Dustour's Hussein Rawashdeh urged the Iranian leadership not to involve itself in a war with Afghanistan. The only losers, said the writer, will be the Muslims from both countries. Iran understands the fact, claimed the writer, that the U.S. reaction to the killing of the two Iranian diplomats in Afghanistan, was designed to incite the former allies to a war of attrition. The only winner from the war would be the United States, he added. The Iranians have learnt from their war with Iraq and the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan that war is not a wise option. Nevertheless, the writer called on the Arab countries to interfere and prevent the shedding of Muslim blood. If war erupts, all sides will lose, and the energy and money is better spent on projects to benefit the people of both nations, he concluded.

## View from the Fourth Circle

# Bill, Monica, Ken, and lessons for all

Rami G. Khouri

THE ONGOING spectacle of the Bill Clinton and Monica Lewinsky scandal teaches something of a climax this week with the release of more documents and videotapes of testimony before the grand jury. What should we make of all this?

My personal analysis is that this is not really a deep personal scandal for Bill Clinton or anyone else. According to the dominant values of American civilisation — personal material gratification and public exhibitionist entertainment — Bill Clinton has probably achieved the height of success. (I can only see two remaining goals for him to achieve in life: to stand in front of the NBC studio during the Today Show and jump up and down like an idiot in front of the cameras, and, to appear on one of the daytime television shows with his family, Monica Lewinsky, Jennifer Flowers, Paula Jones, Ken Starr, and Jesse Jackson and have a good argument, cry a bit, and then finish with a collective hug.)

The most intimate details of Bill Clinton's personal and sexual life are being discussed in public. He professes remorse, apologises three times a day, vows atonement, pleads for redemption and forgiveness, looks the camera and the American people in the eye, and at the end of the day goes to bed relatively sure that almost nobody in the United States or the world believes him — because he has been shown to be an irresponsible liar.

Yet, his job approval ratings are very high: two-thirds of Americans want him to stay in office, and feel that Ken Starr's investigation has gone too far and for too long. What could all this mean? It might mean that the United States is not ignoring the concept of sin, but merely redefining it, and separating sin from criminality. Issues of morality and sin are increasingly relegated to Sunday schools and children's theatres in contemporary America; in the real world, the important and operative criteria of what is deemed acceptable behaviour have little to do with traditional concepts of right and wrong, or good and bad (there are only three perfect men in the United States,

as far as I can tell: Walter Cronkite, Arnold Palmer, and Sammy Sosa, everybody else is damaged goods).

Bill Clinton is a flawed human being who is also doing a good job as president — the American majority says — because the economy is robust and most Americans feel their quality of life is improving. The message is that the personal gratification of individual Americans is more important than the collective dignity of their community or nation.

This is totally in keeping with the American trend towards a society that enjoys neither shame nor privacy. Bill Clinton's repeated dishonourable behaviour with women subordinates and in lying to the American people, should have caused him shame enough for several lifetimes. But there is no shame here. His public credibility and support remain strong.

We witness today the point of convergence of two historical trends that have long defined the best and worst aspects of American life: Benjamin Franklin, meet the Bold and the Beautiful. American public figures and political leaders should promote the productivity and efficacy of the American economy so that free individual citizens can live a good life, and they should also provide really high quality entertainment to their people. Bill Clinton achieves high grades on both counts — and that's probably why he's president. His moral weaknesses are not a sign of his downfall, but rather of his success all these years.

But this is not only entertaining. It is also instructive, especially when viewed from a distance. The most important aspect of this matter to me is the separation of political powers, and the role of the judiciary. I tip my cap to an American system that appoints a special prosecutor to undertake the sort of investigation that Ken Starr has made, and one that gives all sides the opportunity to give testimony and review evidence.

The simultaneous, high-energy roles of the judiciary, the Congress, the White House and the mass media in the

United States these days is an inspiring spectacle. I am impressed and slightly jealous that four separate sources of power and authority in America wage public battle to try to determine a) the moral verdict and political will of the American people, and, b) the appropriate political response to Bill Clinton's personal misdeeds. We may have something to learn from the good points of this American drama.

This is the real definition of democracy and accountability in the United States today: after the full disclosure of the facts, the majority will of the people will prevail. This formidable expression of the sovereignty of the people is built on a system of real checks-and-balances among the different branches of government. It may not be suitable for other countries, but it is sparkling in its American context. You can be sure that other American public figures will be more careful in their behaviour in the years to come. This is what accountability is all about. If you misbehave, and are caught, you pay the price.

What price will President Clinton pay? Impeachment seems rather harsh, and a censure by Congress pretty meaningless. I suggest something in between: if the U.S. Congress, representing the American people, really finds Bill Clinton's behaviour to be unacceptable, they should ask him to take a voluntary leave of absence for two months, giving him time and reason for atonement, redemption and all the other good things that he says he is now deeply engaged in. This would truly humiliate him for a short period of time — and thus provide meaningful punishment — while also allowing him to continue his term of office and keep the good times rolling for his friendly, happy constituency.

The genius of American civilisation is that it has always combined serious concepts of good governance with examples of both public criminality and personal frivolity. We should enjoy the fleeting entertainment in the latter, and draw useful lessons from the former.

# The system is broken

America's preoccupation with a president's disgrace is bad news for the rest of the world

By Michael Elliott

THE PROLOGUE is over; the play has begun. With the publication last Friday of Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr's report on the Monica Lewinsky affair, the crisis in the Clinton presidency moves to a new stage. The salaciousness of Starr's report could lead to a backlash against him, and support for the president. But it is also plausible that the course now set could lead to the president's removal from office, either by impeachment or because, like Richard Nixon 24 years ago, he resigns because of a collapse in his political support.

This is a matter of profound moment for the whole world. It explains why this issue of Newsweek International is very largely devoted to the Clinton crisis, and long excerpts of Starr's report have been printed, which is, in effect, an indictment of the president. The report includes graphic descriptions of the sexual encounters between Clinton and Lewinsky of a sort that would not normally be published; this is done because, for good or ill, they are at the heart of Starr's accusation — that Clinton perjured himself twice over in describing the nature of his relationship with Lewinsky.

There is a great irony in the Clinton affair, and it is this: The crisis in the American presidency matters more to the world outside the United States than it does

inside the country. The enormous stature granted to the president within the United States is of comparatively recent vintage. It is a product of 60 years of overlapping crises that started in 1929 and that encompassed an economic depression, wars — both hot and cold — and the great struggle for the civil rights of black Americans. In each of these crises, America needed a strong president and federal government, able to get done those things that were beyond the power of state governments and the private sector. But the fall of the Berlin wall brought that long period to an end.

America is a prosperous country, at peace, and one that long ago signalled that it was not prepared to grant the federal government new powers to advance the cause of racial equality. It was Bill Clinton's bad luck to win a presidency whose stature had been subtly diminished; within the bounds of the land of the free, it simply matters less than it once did who the president is. It cannot plausibly be argued that a transfer of powers from Clinton to Al Gore, his vice president, would mark a sort of epochal rupture in the affairs of the nation.

To the world outside, however, an America distracted from its purpose by a constitutional crisis is a disaster. America is the indispensable nation, on which the world's political and economic security depends. As Simon

Jenkins wrote in The Times of London last week, "we cannot

*'The rest of the world, when it views the United States in the fall of 1998, can be forgiven for thinking that the society it sees is an ugly one'*

deny America's role as a guarantor of world peace. A strong American democracy remains the fountain of that order. The president represents that democracy... The West has no interest in (his) downfall... He is ex officio the spokesman for freedom. He is a

necessary hero." At a time of economic collapse in Asia and Russia, of a war between Islamists and the West, of clear and pressing danger in the Middle East, and of misery in Africa, the uncertainty in Washington, and the lack of authority of a president who has been reduced to a laughing stock, is profoundly disturbing.

Americans understand the importance of their country, and many of them worry about how it now looks. All the same, they can say, with some justice, that they did not ask the rest of the world to rely on their own good sense and reason. But the rest of the world does; and when it views the United States in the fall of 1998, it can be forgiven for thinking that the society it sees is an ugly one, riven by petty disputes. The hatred between Clinton's supporters and his pursuers is shocking, and over what? The matters that divide them, compared to the great ideological divides seen earlier in the century, are picaresque — every major American politician is a capitalist, every one a patriot, every one a democrat, every one committed to the cause of personal liberty. Clinton, of course, has betrayed the trust of those closest to him and the nation as a whole — I offer no defence of his conduct, nor suggest that he is fit to be a leader. But a nation that spends a year tearing itself apart over the truthfulness of his account of a tawdry affair is one

whose politics have become decadent.

Decadence, sadly, is all too obvious in modern America. The details of the Starr report — which are such that, quite literally, many will now know more about the sexual practices of the president than those of their best friend — are just the latest manifestation of a culture grown coarse. One does not need to endorse the finger-wagging moralism of zealots to think that a society whose films, TV, magazines and conversation are so obsessed with the sexual practices of the president is not a healthy one. Other generations left such mysteries to the beatings of the private heart. That is now called hypocrisy, but it was not unwise.

I first arrived in the United States in August 1974, a few days after Nixon resigned. I was a young man, starting my first full-time job, and was overwhelmed by a sense of freedom and vitality — but also by the honour, dignity and political maturity with which the nation had ridden itself of a disgraced president. "The system worked," everyone said, with justified pride. Whatever the outcome of the political crisis of 1998, I would hazard a guess you won't hear that little judgement trotted out this year. The system is sick.

The writer is the editor of Newsweek International.  
— Newsweek International

# You like books? That's unusual

Many students are bored by classic texts because they lack any rapport with the authors

By Stephen Logan

PEOPLE COMMONLY suppose that teaching literature must be a delightful occupation. After all, the subject matter is so interesting and the students, presumably, so keen.

In principle, of course, these are fair assumptions. Literature deals, in the most diverse, ingenious and interesting ways, with the very stuff of life. It covers the entire span of familiar experience from birth to death and it speculates on what is (to author, reader, or both) unfamiliar or unknown. It tells us, as nothing else can, what it has felt like to be alive under an inexhaustible diversity of historical and social conditions.

Not to be interested in it is unthinkable, surely? Well, no. There is a difference between being interested in your own experience and being interested in what other people have written about theirs. But even though not everyone is equally given to reflecting on what happens, some capacity for being interested in experience is a basic human attribute. It seems reasonable to suppose that by the time students reach A level standard, they will be competent readers and that, by the time some of them go to university they will be well on the way to being literary critics. But again, this is only half-true.

In many casual discussions of reading,

literature is assumed to be modern. But most of what we call literature is, in fact, old. And the further back you go in time, the more you need to know in order simply to make sense of a literary text. It alone understand why you should enjoy it.

I once taught Tom Jones (1749) to a very able group of sixth formers. They were interested in the basic issues that could be abstracted from the book and talked freely and fruitfully about whether having a good disposition is just luck, whether honour matters more than piety and whether sexual promiscuity wasn't more reprehensible in the 18th century than now.

The trouble started when we tried to discover more exactly what Fielding thought about such things by closely examining his words. It soon became apparent that these intelligent, well-educated students had difficulty in reading Fielding's prose: the syntax felt too complex, many words had undergone important changes of meaning and, the whole pace of the narrative was simply too leisurely for their tastes.

The linguistic impediments to reading old books are often more serious than with Fielding. Getting an able and willing undergraduate to read Chaucer, Malory, Spenser or even Bunyan with any degree of fluency is often very difficult. The popularity of the recent film of Romeo and Juliet depended not only on brilliant camera-work and direction, but on the excision from the text of nearly everything a modern reader might be stumped by. Fair enough; but the new film and the old play

are only nominally the same.

My sixth form students had a deeper problem with Tom Jones. They could not easily imagine the system of values underlying the book. This, too, is a problem which gets worse as you go back in time. Most pre-modernist literature in English is profoundly influenced by Christianity and by classical precedent. Most post-modernist literature is not. There is thus often a serious disparity of assumptions between old books and modern readers.

Hence what really holds students up in their reading is a sense of a lack of rapport with their authors; and this, combining with more practical difficulties is often enough to dissuade them from further effort. They have in a word got bored.

Even modern literature has its problems. Ever since the publication, in the 1920s, of Eliot's The Waste Land, Joyce's Ulysses, Pound's Cantos and Woolf's To the Lighthouse, it has been assumed that the best books are the most difficult. Hence there is now a distinction in the publishing trade between "literary" or "original" fiction and the rest.

You know which books are literary from feeling simultaneously an urge to buy them with a disinclination to read them. This equation of literary sophistication with difficulty, occurring at a time when traditional standards of judgement are in disarray, has had disastrous results.

The worst, perhaps, is that bad writers are able to cheat diffident readers into submission by seeming clever. Hence you get the spectacle — still, unfortunately,

common — of poets, novelists, playwrights and critics implying that if you can't be bothered to penetrate their obscurities, you must be thick. Youngsters tend to respond to this either by turning away in healthy retaliation, or else by becoming prigs.

Recent poetry and fiction shows signs of regaining its accessibility. And the dominant literary forms — not the novel, play or lyric poem, but the newspaper article, the screenplay and the song — are in good health. Nonetheless, traditional literature has been culturally marginalised and the dominance of the audio-visual media has fostered habits of attention unsuited to leisurely, careful reading.

The most obvious obstacles to good reading are lack of the necessary kinds of linguistic knowledge; remoteness from the underlying assumptions of old books and unreadable habits of attention. Less obvious, but more damaging, however, is the loss of faith in reading as a potential source of wisdom. This has weakened the principal motive for becoming a versatile reader. The job of the teacher of literature is not to sigh appreciatively over masterworks the students have only to open to enjoy, but to promote good reading by encouraging students to recognise the difficulties that stand in the way of it.

The writer is Director of Studies in English, St. Edmund's College, Cambridge.

— The Independent



# Swedes not put off by high taxes

Newly re-elected Prime Minister Goran Persson, if he forms a new government, will have proven that voters are not necessarily repelled by election pledges that embrace raising taxes. That is, at least not voters in Sweden.

By Belinda Goldsmith  
Reuters

SWEDEN'S CRADLE-to-grave welfare system is envied throughout the world but many Swedes are becoming tired of paying for it. With income tax of up to 55 per cent and a 25 per cent value added tax on most goods and services, Swedes are among the most highly-taxed people on earth.

In the past, tax cuts have not been a priority in Swedish general elections but as they prepare to vote on September 20, Swedes are saying they are no longer happy to lose more than half their wages to support the country's showpiece welfare state.

"We are seeing a fundamental change in the attitude towards tax," Per Olofsson, managing director of the Confederation of Swedish Industries, told Reuters.

"We have the highest taxes in the world but this is not backed up by the highest growth rates or job creation and people are realising this," Sweden traditionally has had very low rates of

unemployment but the number of people out of work has increased since the late 1980s, and now stands at about eight per cent excluding people on government retraining programmes.

"People are getting annoyed about the number of people who are living off benefits or taking black market jobs and cheating the system," Olofsson said.

"This is a deterrent to people seeking jobs. We need to make a bigger difference between working and living off subsidies," The Swedish Tax Board has estimated that black market jobs, false tax declarations and errors in tax returns cost the state about \$10-11 billion a year.

This works out at about nine per cent of total annual income tax with Swedes paying around \$100 billion in tax last year.

In the run-up to the election, held every four years, pollsters asked samples of Sweden's 6.5 million voters what they saw as the most important election issues.

A Gallup poll in mid-August found voters listed employment and health care as the key issues with tax coming seventh.

Although the level of Swedish taxes would be unacceptable in many countries, the pressure for tax cuts in Sweden is much weaker than in the United States or Britain.

All working Swedes pay a minimum 30 per cent of their income to local authorities plus

eight per cent for pensions. Those earning over 20,000 crowns a month pay an additional 25 per cent state tax.

On top of this comes a kind of 25 per cent consumption or value added tax, known as MOMS, which is put on almost all goods and services.

Susanne Ackum-Agell, head of the Office of Labour Market Policy Evaluation, said about 17 per cent of Swedes paid the maximum tax rate. "Swedes are among the highest taxed in the world, alongside other countries like Denmark," she said.

OECD figures based on 1996 revenues put Denmark at the top of the global tax league, with a tax burden of 52.2 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) against an average of 37.7 per cent.

Sweden followed a close second with 52 per cent. Preliminary OECD figures for 1997 show this burden rising to 53.3 per cent of GDP in Sweden which could make Sweden top of the tax table.

But a recent opinion poll on taxation, conducted by pollster SIFO between August 24-27, found 58 per cent of men and 43 per cent of women were in favour of tax cuts. Only 35 per cent of Swedes opposed them if it meant lower social benefits.

The poll showed 57 per cent of supporters of Sweden's ruling Social Democratic Party (SDP) opposed tax cuts while 36 per cent were in favour. Some 82 per cent of opposition or Moderate Party supporters favoured tax cuts.

The Swedes who are happy to hand over a huge part of their income to support the welfare system want to see more spent on it.

This may seem surprising when government expenditure last year accounted for 62 per cent of GDP.

But most taxpayers are also welfare recipients and are willing to pay for good child-care centres and lavish pensions.

Newly re-elected Prime Minister Goran Persson, did not promise any tax cuts in his election pledges. Instead, his party, the Social Democrats, vowed to increase spending on social programmes, particularly child care and pensions.

Years of painful fiscal tightening have started to erode the welfare system.

The umbrella union group, LO, which is an integral part of the Social Democratic movement, is campaigning against further cuts in welfare provision for disadvantaged groups such as the unemployed and single parents.

"We have high levels of taxation in Sweden because we have high ambitions in our welfare policy," Persson said in the SDP's election manifesto that unveiled a nine billion crown spend-

ing package. "When there is room for lowering taxes after paying off the public debt, improving quality in health care, schools and welfare services, improving pensions and raising the economic standard of families with children, our ambition must be to take further steps towards greater justice and equality."

"The tax system must contribute to reducing social divisions in society."

Nevertheless, Sweden's main opposition party, the conservative Moderates, led by former prime minister Carl Bildt, campaigned on tax cuts saying they would create more jobs.

"As things stand today, we are paying the world's highest taxes but do not have the world's best welfare," Bildt said in an election programme.

"The political system deprives citizens of a record share of their incomes but is incapable of delivering the legal security, the medical care and the education which citizens are entitled to demand."

The Moderates proposed a top tax limit of 50 per cent, a 12 per cent tax deduction for low and medium income earners, reduction of real property tax, less tax on pension savings and less tax on petrol and domestic services.

## Environment

### Mexican coast seeks tourist cash

By Michael Christie  
Reuters

THE CAPITAL of Mexico's south-eastern state of Quintana Roo has seen better days. Ramshackle taxis rattle along potholed roads, dirty water laps against the deserted quay, and anyone who does not work for the state government probably does not work at all. Yet on a spit of land across the bay, Caribbean waves break lazily on an unspoiled white-sand beach, further out, a turquoise sea glimmers over sun-drenched coral reefs.

If officials have their way, this pristine southern coast, known as the "Costa Maya" (Mayan Coast), will soon follow the lead of the state's northern shores and begin luring droves of foreigners with dollars and deutschmarks to help feed Chetumal's poor.

"Tourism will be our salvation," said William Souza Calderon, deputy director of state tourism agency Fidecarbe.

Quintana Roo is no stranger to tourism. The purpose-built resort of Cancun, since it was constructed in the north of the state in the 1970s, has become one of Mexico's main holiday destinations, drawing millions of foreigners every year. But the southern part of the state, where the local government is based, has suffered benign neglect, losing its status as a "free port" exempt from retail tax several years ago and sinking slowly ever since into a tropical slum.

Once they know it they will fall in love in August, Gov. Mario Villameca Madrid launched the "Ruta de la Aventura Maya" (Route of the Mayan Adventure), saying promotion was key for the plan because "once people get to know the Costa Maya they will fall in love with it."

The project envisages the construction of roads, three small airports, a jetty for cruise liners and a string of hotels on a virtually undeveloped strip of coast running from the Sian Ka'an nature reserve to Mexico's border with Belize.

The state government forecasts \$19 million in public sector infrastructure investment and some \$6 million in investment by private hotel owners, scuba diving schools and marine sports centres along the mangrove-lined beach.

Thirty kilometres out to sea lies the breathtaking beauty of the Banco Chichonoro coral reef, which, rising suddenly from 1,000-metre deep waters, is home to hundreds of species of fish and seabirds and a shallow grave to at least a dozen wrecks, some of them galleons once laden with Peruvian silver.

Inland, 1,000-year-old Mayan pyramids poke through steamy jungle while the sun beats down incessantly all year long.

Officials say they do not aim to develop the Mayan Coast to the same extent as the north, where glitzy resorts like Cancun, Playa del Carmen and the island of Cozumel cater to package tours and billions of dollars are being invested in new monster beach hotels by international chains like Spain's Sol Melia.

"The idea is not to compete," Souza told Reuters in an interview in Fidecarbe's rundown offices in a Chetumal suburb.

"We're thinking more of adventure tourism, eco-tourism." Party-seekers will go elsewhere; the state hopes to attract hardy "eco-archeo-tourists" interested in scuba diving, tranquillity and ancient Mayan history. The "spring-breakers" and party-seekers who flock to Cancun's discos and bars are unlikely to be attracted by the spartan simplicity planned for the south.

Miguel Sosa Huerta, a biologist working at Fidecarbe, said authorities were determined to carry out thorough environmental impact studies and ensure development was kept as ecologically friendly as possible, especially near the Chichonoro reef, which has been declared a protected area.

Local environmentalists are supportive, arguing that as long as the law is respected eco-tourism could indeed mean much-needed food on the table for the region's mainly impoverished Mayan Indian population.

"We can't possibly oppose development because the whole coast of Quintana Roo has a clear tourist vocation," said Concepcion Molina, coastal planning director for environmental pressure group Amigos de Sian Ka'an (Friends of Sian Ka'an), which has been helping the state government come up with new laws to protect the coral reef and the coast.

"Sure, there are always ecological dangers," Molina acknowledged. But for southern Quintana Roo there are few alternatives, officials say. The soil is poor and overfishing has already reduced fish and lobster stocks drastically.

A small number of shoppers from neighbouring Belize, where most goods are more expensive, keeps Chetumal's stores going, but there is no industry in the state capital and the government is the principal employer.

Yet tourism can also bring new problems. In Playa del Carmen, five hours drive to the north, locals have quite simply been priced out of town by big-spending foreigners.

"Now we have to even pay dollars to get into the nature reserves. These places used to belong to Mexicans," taxi driver Manuel said with a frown.

### Mountain gorillas thrive despite perils

By Simon Denyer  
Reuters

DEEP IN the heart of Uganda's only rainforest reserve, a large male silverback gorilla peers disdainfully through the thick bush.

The object of his gaze — a small group of Western tourists who have trekked for four hours through the forest for this glimpse of one of the world's last surviving mountain gorillas.

For a while gorilla and tourist study each other. Then, his curiosity satisfied, the silverback stretches out to resume his afternoon snooze, with one careful eye on the intruders. Only around 620 mountain gorillas survive, making them one of the world's most endangered species. They are split into two roughly equal groups, one in the relative safety of Bwindi Impenetrable National Park in south-west Uganda.

The other has a more precarious existence around the Virunga volcanoes, in a series of three linked national parks, straddling the corners of Uganda, Rwanda and the former Zaire, now the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Instability in Rwanda and the Congo poses a major threat to that population.

"The population is very threatened right now," said Annette Lanjouw, regional coordinator for the International Gorilla Conservation Programme (IGCP), which provides technical assistance to the three governments.

"There are problems with rebels, namely the (Rwandan Hutu) Interahamwe, who are using the park to move across in the Rwandan region," she said. "In May last year, at least 10 animals were killed because they were caught in the crossfire between the military and the rebels."

But rebels are not the only threat to the mountain gorilla, whose contact with humans has long been an unhappy one.

Gorillas, like chimpanzees, share about 98 per cent of their genetic material, or DNA, with humans. That makes them very suscep-

tible to a whole range of human diseases — but without human immune systems, even a simple cold or flu could threaten a gorilla group.

Tourists are kept to at least five metres from the gorillas they encounter, and are barred from tracking if they have a cold. Even so, some conservationists argue that tourism is a major threat to the species.

"There are a lot of people who don't believe in gorilla tourism," said Lanjouw. "We argue that if you don't have tourists, you wouldn't be able to protect them at all." A maximum of six tourists are allowed to visit a "habituated" gorilla group every day, and stay for just one hour. Each foreign visitor pays \$180 for the experience, on top of the \$20 park entrance fee.

The income generated finances the gorilla parks and also subsidises other, less-visited parks in the three countries.

Before civil war broke out in Rwanda in the early 1990s, gorilla tourism was the country's third-highest foreign exchange earner, behind tea and coffee.

American researcher Dian Fossey brought mountain gorillas international fame, with her efforts to protect them from poachers the subject of the Hollywood film "Gorillas in the Mist".

Fossey spent 13 years in Rwanda studying the gorillas and habituating them to humans before her murder in 1985. Today, her legacy has been taken up by the IGCP.

It takes around 18 months to habituate gorilla groups to human contact. Initially, trackers see little more than a disturbance in the thick bush before the primates move off.

Gradually, by imitating the grunting of a satisfied gorilla, they narrow the distance the animals are comfortable with — but not without the occasional run-in.

"When they charge, you remain submissive, you don't move a step, you keep your eyes looking down as much as possible," said Sampson Werikhe, IGCP's deputy programme director in Uganda.

"They come as close as five metres. They are really threatening, pulling down branches and hitting their chests... but when they find you are not responding, they just walk away," he said.

Just two groups are currently "receiving visitors" in Bwindi. The second was only opened to tourists a few months ago, with a maximum of just four visitors a day for the time being.

A third habituated group crossed into the Congo earlier this year, moving into a small and unprotected forest near the border. They are now back in the park, but having split

into smaller groups, are no longer considered good targets for tourism.

Habituation poses its own problems. Gorillas who have lost their fear of humans can be a menace to the villagers surrounding the reserves.

"Since they have become habituated, gorillas sometimes leave the park and go into people's fields," said Lanjouw.

"They rip the banana trees down and eat the pith inside the stem. A family can totally destroy a whole banana plantation in just one afternoon."

Despite all the problems, and the lack of a census in the Virungas since 1989, conservationists say the population is stable.

Experts even talk of a "baby boom" in the past 18 months, with at least 10 births recorded in the five habituated groups who live in the Congo.

Lanjouw says that is a normal birth-rate, but is nevertheless encouraging in groups traumatised by recent events in the region.

In mid-1995, a silverback male, called Luwawa, was killed in the Congo. His replacement as head of the group, Kabirizi, has been busy — his females have born him five young since March this year.

Bwindi is the only safe and reliable place in the world to see mountain gorillas in the wild, and waiting lists often stretch for up to a year.

Visitors to Mgahinga National Park, the Ugandan portion of the Virunga range, have to take their chances. With gorillas not respecting international boundaries, their presence in that tiny corner of Uganda cannot be guaranteed.

Nor is it wise to cross into Rwanda or the Congo to follow them. A group of six tourists was attacked by Hutu rebels just inside Congo last month.

So far, three of those tourists remain in rebel captivity — a stark reminder of the unstable environment in which mountain gorillas have found their only remaining home.

### When an elephant has to die...

In many game reserves animals multiply beyond the park's carrying capacity. To cut down on the numbers of elephants, the larger herds are culled. But as Dawn Muir reports, the methods used have caused much soul-searching among conservationists.

HELICOPTERS FLY over the bush, shooting darts into the herd of elephants below. The young are darted with a painless drug called M99 which puts them to sleep within five to ten minutes.

Another drug, Scoline, is used to immobilise the adults. It paralyses the muscles, but leaves them conscious and aware of everything that is taking place around them — the killings and traumatised bellowing of the young as they run around witnessing the slaughter.

M99 is not used on adults because it leaves a residue in the meat which makes it unsuitable for human consumption. Meat sales provide a useful income for the parks so the painful Scoline is used because it does not leave a residue.

Wildlife naturalists, like Daphne Sheldrick who has lived among the elephant herds of Kenya's Tsavo Reserve for nearly 40 years, are concerned about the welfare of these noble animals.

She says elephants are sensitive, caring creatures which experience the same emotions as humans. Their development is similar to ours and their memories span a lifetime.

Elephants have a strong sense of family with the females organised into groups which bond together for life. Each group is led by a matriarch, usually the oldest cow.

Sheldrick believes elephants have a sense of death, having observed the deeply moving reaction of a group of elephants to the death of one of their own.

The huge animals become silent and the only sound to be heard is that of a soft blowing of air from their trunks as they investigate their dead. They use their toe nails and soles of their feet to touch gently the body.

Sometimes they cover the bodies with leaves and branches, returning to the site for years after.

Elephants are also capable of compassion that extends beyond their own kind. Joyce Poole describes one such inci-



dent in her book *Coming of Age with Elephants* when a ranch herder in Kenya was charged by a matriarch who broke his leg. When the elephant realised he could not walk, she gently moved him to a shady tree, using her front feet and trunk, and guarded him all afternoon and into the next day. Her family left, but she stayed on, occasionally touching the man gently with her trunk.

When a herd of buffalo approached, she chased them away. It was as if she had taken it upon herself to protect him.

Needless to say, the rescue party had a great deal of difficulty getting near the herder, finally driving the matriarch off by shooting over her head.

Meanwhile, conservationists have also realised that juveniles who have been relocated to other national parks to re-establish elephant populations are causing immense problems.

They become psychotic and turn into rogues, damaging crops and terrorising villagers. A generation of delinquents has grown from the young male orphans who were culled from

Kruger Park in 1977.

These male elephants are killing white rhinoceros — an endangered species — in South Africa's Pilansberg National Park. Gus van Dyke, the monitoring officer, says they knock the rhino to the ground, kneel on the unfortunate creature and then gore it to death.

Elephants have killed 30 rhino over the last three years in Pilansberg. Another eight rhino have been killed in the Hluhluwe-Umfolozi Park in KwaZulu-Natal.

Human lives are being lost as well. A professional hunter was trampled to death last July in Pilansberg when trying to destroy a bull elephant which had attacked tourists' cars and rhino.

The elephants are socially maladjusted because they failed to integrate with other herds in their new environment and grew up outside the normal hierarchy of elephant bulls.

This hierarchy is essential for a healthy elephant society. The dominant bull is usually the biggest, oldest and strongest bull and provides a guiding hand and discipline to the younger generation.

Pilansberg is considering introducing big bulls into the park in the hope that they will put the juveniles in their place.

Kruger Park has called a halt to the annual elephant hunt and will translocate only whole elephant families in the future.

Researchers are continuing to search for ways to control elephant populations. Contraceptive hormonal implants are being tested on small herds, but with limited success.

The hormonal odour excreted by the female causes a social unbalancing of the group and she becomes alienated.

Another proposal is to anaesthetise and humanely kill female groups which are not yet of breeding age. The one-off cull spares the matriarch and her successors and leaves the family unit basically intact.

In the meantime if culling is to be continued, scientists would do well to develop a drug which brings about pain-free euthanasia and at the same time leaves no residue in the meat.

— Gemini News



# IMF warns of 'significant risks' on international capital markets

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The IMF warned Monday that global capital markets face major risks such as paralysis in Japan, overvalued U.S. and European stock markets and prospects for even broader financial instability.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF), in an annual report, predicted that unless Japan acted decisively to shore up its banking sector and stimulate its economy, a new round of Asian currency turbulence could be set in motion.

In addition, a sharp correction in the stock markets of the United States and Europe would further dampen recovery efforts in emerging economies.

The study carried out by the IMF staff focused on developments through last July, according to Charles Adams, assistant director of the Fund's research department.

"Several of the risks we've identified in this

report have subsequently materialised," Adams told a press conference here, noting that the study was completed before the Russian economy neared collapse, Latin America came under threat and world stock prices plunged.

"We're now looking at a broader crisis in emerging capital markets than we were only a couple of months ago."

In its conclusion, the report warns that "the current situation in the international capital markets contains a number of significant risks and uncertainties, as well as the possibility of heightened volatility and large asset price corrections in the period ahead."

It said that private capital flows to emerging markets registered a sharp, \$67 billion contraction last year, the first such decline this decade, as investors steered clear of troubled Asian economies.

The fund also highlighted the profoundly

destabilising effects of large and sudden swings in capital flows to emerging markets.

In some instances, it said, countries might have to impose temporary controls — in the form of taxes — to reduce their vulnerability to the effects of short-term capital investment.

Such a step should complement improved data dissemination on emerging market conditions, as a means of improving investor behaviour, as well as initiatives to establish strong regulatory and supervisory systems.

The IMF was blunt in its insistence that Japan move quickly to reform its banking sector, currently riddled with bad loans, and boost growth.

"The failure of Japan to deal promptly and more forcefully with its banking and financial sector problems is contributing to significant domestic economic weakness and downward pressure on the yen, risking significant spillovers and another round of Asian currency

turmoil," the report warned.

The study in addition cited the potentially damaging impact of a dramatic correction in U.S. stock values.

"U.S. stock prices are even more overvalued now than they were one or two years ago, and especially in light of the slowdown in earnings growth that has already taken place, the current phase of the business cycle and the likelihood of further fallout from Asia," the report pointed out.

A severe correction could aggravate "weaknesses in the Japanese economic and financial system ... and make the risk of spillovers more worrisome than usual."

Adams observed that markets in the United States and Europe were now experiencing "some correction, some fall-back" from stock valuations he said had been "difficult to rationalise."

Asia, from 1994 to 1996 the largest recipient of private capital flows to emerging markets, registered a drop-off of nearly \$100 billion last year to \$13.9 billion.

Private capital flows to all emerging markets in 1997 fell \$67 billion to \$173.7 billion, according to the IMF, which groups developing countries, countries in transition and Hong Kong, Israel, South Korea, Singapore and Taiwan in its definition of emerging markets.

Bucking the downward trend was foreign direct investment, which grew by 20 per cent last year to \$138 billion, according to the IMF.

Most of the decline in total capital flows to Asia was concentrated in the countries hardest hit by financial weakness, Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines, Indonesia and South Korea, where inflows of \$73 billion in 1996 were replaced by net outflows of \$11 billion.

## Egypt says reforms improving investment climate

CAIRO (R) — Finance Minister Mohamed Al Gharib said Egypt's fiscal and trade reforms were creating better conditions for foreign direct investment.

"Egypt will always work to liberalise trade. It is a must to improve the investment climate," Gharib told a conference in Cairo. "Our intention in the future is not to increase taxes, but rather whenever it is possible, to reduce tax burdens on individuals and companies."

Antoine Basile, an adviser to the U.N. Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), said that despite increasing liberalisation, the Arab World had a comparatively small share of world foreign direct investment, which UNCTAD put at \$349 billion in 1996.

Economists at the conference put the Arab World's share at about two per cent and said markets needed to open up more.

"The infrastructure in terms of legal reform and economic reforms and the culture of liberalisation work together to make the inflow slower than we would hope it to be," Mona Zulficar, a lawyer for Sha-

lakany Law Office in Egypt, told a seminar.

Egypt is trying to liberalise its economy and attract foreign private capital as part of economic reforms.

It recently passed a new investment incentives law which grants tax holidays to companies investing in sectors Egypt regards as economic priorities, such as export enhancement.

Investors in free zone areas enjoy a full tax holiday except for one per cent "which is the value-added on industrial production, which is very minor," Gharib said, adding that stock market transactions were tax-free.

He said the government wanted individual sales tax to be as efficient as that of developed countries. "It might take some time to reach that, however this is the ultimate aim," he said.

As part of efforts to reduce domestic debt, Gharib said the government had started issuing tax-free seven-year maturity bonds at 10 per cent on a month-to-month basis. Two such issues took place in August and September.

## U.S. trade official says Asia must stick to reforms

MANILA (R) — A senior U.S. trade official has said Asian countries need to stand by economic reforms to survive the region's financial crisis and move on.

"There is no doubt the region will recover ... But recovery will not be easy. It will require a serious, sustained commitment to trade liberalisation and structural reform," U.S. Undersecretary for International Trade David Aaron told members of the American Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines.

"The bottom line is that those who stick with reform programmes will come out of the crisis ahead of the competition," he said.

Aaron said the region would not regain its health until Japan acted to fix its banking system and implement other reforms.

Japan accounts for about 70 per cent of Asia's gross domestic product (GDP), he said.

He said the crisis in Asia is a classic example of "boom and bust."

"Capitalism is a system of

profit and losses. And, this is exactly why capitalism works — it punishes bad decisions," he emphasised.

Aaron said Asia should work on four priority trade issues, including pushing for trade pacts at the November summit of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, completing negotiations on the first Information Technology Agreement, addressing the millennium bug problem and developing a favourable environment for electronic commerce.

He urged the Philippines to help develop a new trade agreement dubbed the "Early Voluntary Sectoral Liberalisation" that will advance trade liberalisation and help counter protectionist measures.

Aaron said negotiations for expanding the first Information Technology Agreement should be finalised to pave the way for lower tariffs on electrical and information technology equipment in 44 countries and to improve market access to these goods.

Aaron said measures that make countries less attractive to foreign investors would be costly.

He said countries that pursue globalisation and "seize its opportunities and heed its disciplines" would recover ahead of others.

Aaron praised the administration of Philippine President Joseph Estrada for rejecting foreign exchange controls, saying it set an example for the region.

Aaron said for the Philippines, following through on legislation on intellectual

property protection would encourage investments in the information technology sector.

He said the United States has been hurt by the Asian turmoil as a third of its economic growth over the past years has been fuelled by exports.

In the first six months of the year, the United States' exports rose only one per cent from substantial growth in recent years while exports to Asia were down more than 30 per cent, he said.

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## Yamani sees low oil prices, OPEC floundering

LONDON (R) — Oil prices set to remain weak for the foreseeable future and could cause producer group OPEC to fall apart, former Saudi Oil Minister Sheikh Zaki Yamani has said.

"Some are saying that current price weakness cannot persist."

"These hopes look overly optimistic," Yamani told an energy conference organised by his Global Centre for Energy Studies think tank and CW Associates.

"I'm not sure OPEC will be able to remain intact. Members' interests are

diverging and their ability to influence the market has become eroded," he said.

Yamani warned that the demise of the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) could lead to "oil price wars and extreme price instability."

Will OPEC manage to hold together or will it fall apart leading to oil price wars and extreme price instability?

Yamani said the combination of low economic growth and rising taxation on petroleum products were not favourable for the future of the oil industry.

He said the crisis in Asian economies, previously the main driving force behind rising oil demand, was unlikely to prove short-term.

"Can the tiger economies grow at previous rates? This is unlikely," Yamani told the conference, organ-

ised jointly with CW Associates.

He said Japan's structural problems could take a decade to resolve.

Policies to combat global warming, though unlikely to be fully ratified, could also hit demand for oil.

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## Romanian government imposes taxes to make extra revenue

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP) — Seeking to fill the country's empty coffers, the government has said it would levy extra taxes on goods from cigarettes to newspapers.

For the past months, the government has been looking for ways to bring in extra revenue to prevent a steep downturn in the economy, which likely will shrink by four per cent this year, a government official said.

Foreign and domestic investment has stalled

due to uncertainties about stalled market reforms and political feuding. Purchasing power has declined and the Romanian currency, the lei, has been overvalued in recent years.

An extra tax of three per cent will be slapped on all imports and excise taxes for cigarettes and alcohol will be doubled, to try and rein in the 1998 budget deficit, the government said.

It will also apply an 11 per cent value added tax

to books and publications, which has caused outrage among publishers.

Previously, they were exempt from the value added tax.

The measures come into effect on Oct. 1. Budget expenditures were also slashed by lei 7.5 trillion (\$833 million), a measure needed to keep the deficit at four per cent, said Dan Radu Rusanu, a state secretary at the ministry of finance.

## SOS to set up new village in Irbid

A NEW SOS village will be established in Irbid, north of Jordan. It will be the third after Amman and Aqaba village. Her Majesty Queen Noor will lay the foundation stone for the third SOS children's village. Her Majesty's blessing was granted to build the Irbid village during the 10th anniversary on the establishment of SOS children's village in Amman which was attended by Helmut Kuntz, president of SOS Kinderdorf International.

A decision was also taken by SOS Kinderdorf International to establish a home for retired SOS mothers who worked at the village. The project is to ensure the future of SOS mothers who worked in SOS village in Jordan, after the age of retirement, and to honour the role of mothers who dedicated their lives to serve children entrusted to them. They will also be given retirement salaries and health insurance. The decision will motivate the mother to offer more due to her feeling of stability and security.

SOS Children's Village Association of Jordan provides Jordanian abandoned children with the best possible substitute for homes and families they have lost. There are now 204 children in Amman and Aqaba villages. There are also nine boys in the boys' youth house and 13 in the girls' youth house. It is worth noting that 20 youth have already graduated from SOS Jordan, out of which three got married, while others have already joined their natural families or relatives.

The agreement for constructing the third SOS village in Jordan was signed, by Lina Kopti, representative of SOS Kinderdorf International, Ali Krayim, chairman of the SOS Children's Village Association of Jordan, and Elie Banayan and Nader Dahdal, representatives of the Engineering Enterprise Co., who will execute the construction of the village.

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### THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

ACROSS

- 1 Bennett of Random House
- 5 Post-season games
- 10 Inicie
- 14 Two-load sloth
- 15 Join together
- 16 Klauwa flow
- 17 Start of Swift quote
- 20 Lukewarm
- 21 Pal
- 22 Asserter
- 25 Inquire
- 26 Back of the Space Shuttle
- 29 Divided in two
- 30 Knight's lady
- 31 Glob ending?
- 32 City on the Ruhr
- 33 Mrs. Nick Chiles
- 34 Chills and fever
- 35 Middle of the quote
- 38 British Conservative
- 39 Tied
- 40 Religious Jamaican, for short
- 42 Alter of sters
- 43 Fodder
- 44 Made lace
- 45 Equivalent wd.
- 46 Go astray
- 47 Handgun
- 48 Bikini part
- 49 Witch town
- 50 End of the quote
- 57 Scent
- 58 Still in existence
- 59 —do well
- 60 Do some gardening
- 61 "The Dresser" director Peter
- 62 TV-dinner holder

DOWN

- 1 Dramatic signal
- 2 Letter carrier
- 3 Actress
- 4 Dawn Chong
- 4 In secret
- 5 Jostled
- 6 Broadcasting
- 7 Moving air
- 8 Inc. in London
- 9 Sower
- 10 Superficially fluent
- 11 Shell propeller
- 12 Latin greeting
- 13 Marx work, — "Kapital"
- 18 Aden native
- 18 Rice beverage
- 22 Cohort of Fidel
- 23 S. Martin movie
- 24 Other finisher
- 25 Hammerin' Hank
- 26 Maine capital
- 27 Flep rapidly
- 28 Golf gadget
- 30 Mated (out)
- 33 At no time
- 34 Reduction in taxes
- 36 Stray off course
- 37 2nd best
- 38 Sch. trainees
- 41 Nav. leader
- 43 Simple plant
- 44 N-toppers in Spanish
- 47 Ointment
- 48 Shakespeare, for one
- 49 Business outfit
- 50 At this time
- 51 Keats opus
- 52 Howard of the Three Stooges
- 53 Cup or pay attachment?
- 54 "the ramps"
- 56 Pastoral pasture
- 56 Parched

**PANSY MADD ABET**  
**ELATE ACUL DEMO**  
**COMETOTINKOFLIT**  
**KEEP GTE CAROLEE**  
**SERE METERED**  
**ELMORE REEDE**  
**SEUL GAMA TWA**  
**MATTEROFOPINION**  
**EPH HUTS RAMON**  
**EASELS HOTELS**  
**FORGOOD TONT**  
**ECLATS PIP VIPS**  
**WHATSTHEBIGIDEA**  
**ERNE AONE ATEAM**  
**REOS TENT DYERS**

### Peanuts

HEY, MARCIE, HOW SOON BEFORE SCHOOL STARTS AGAIN?

I MAY HAVE TO BORROW SOME NOTEBOOK PAPER AND THINGS...

SO HOW SOON BEFORE SCHOOL STARTS?

DO YOU HAVE A CALENDAR?

A WHAT?

### Andy Capp

YOUR MUM-IN-LAW IS BEING A BIT TOO REFINED TO HAVE ANYTHING IN COMMON WITH YOUR MUM-IN-LAW...

SHE STRUCK ME AS BEING A BIT TOO REFINED TO HAVE ANYTHING IN COMMON WITH YOUR MUM-IN-LAW...

MIND YOUR MUM-IN-LAW WHEN YOU'RE DOING THE TALKING...

NOVEN JUST LOVE TO TALK TO YOU AND YOUR MUM-IN-LAW... BUT PLEASE DON'T LISTEN...

MAKE A CHARGE

### Mutt'n'Jeff

I THOUGHT YOU SAID THAT HORSE COULD SEE!

OH, HE CAN!

WELL, IF HE CAN SEE WHY DID HE HEEDLESSLY RUN INTO THAT TREE?

HE JUST DOESN'T GIVE A DARN!

### THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen

"I read that computer geeks make lousy husbands. Every two years they want to upgrade to a better wife."

### JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME By Henri Arnold and Mike Arghon

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SPUHL

BOYTO

NOPPIL

HYCTOU

Answer here: A

Yesterday's Jumbles: JAOED FAVOR ARTFUL DEBATE Answer: Easy "see" after too much champagne — DOUBLE



Markets

1994 to 1996 the largest recipient of capital flows to emerging markets, with a total of nearly \$100 billion in capital flows to all emerging markets, up from \$67 billion in 1994 to \$173.7 billion in 1996. The IMF, which groups developing countries in transition and emerging markets, said the downward trend was temporary, which grew by 20 per cent in 1996, according to the IMF. The decline in total capital flows to emerging markets was due to a weakness in the capital flows to Indonesia and South Korea of \$73 billion in 1996 and outflows of \$11 billion.

reforms

property protection was encouraged by the information technology sector. He said the United States has been hurt by the economic growth over the past years has been fuelled by exports. In the first six months of the year, the United States exports rose only one per cent from substantial growth in recent years while exports to Asia were down more than 30 per cent, he said.

ering

used jointly with CW Associates. He said Japan's structural problems could take a decade to resolve. Policies to combat global warming, though unlikely to be fully ratified, could also hit demand for oil.

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for constructing the Jordan was signed by Law of SOS Kinderziekenhuis, chairman of the SOS Association of Jordan and Nader Dahdul, representing Enterprise Co. who instructed the village.

By Glasbergen  
GLASBERGEN



r geeks make  
ary two years  
o a better wife.

CRAMBOLE WORD GAME  
leni Arnold and Mike Arnesen

s will help me get  
ty of story detail



WHAT THE  
VERY WRITER  
JUND IN THE  
CEMETERY.

ange the circled letters to  
surprise answer, as sup  
y the above cartoon

(Answers tomorrow)  
ARTFUL DEBATE  
o much champagne

Daily Beat  
A review of news from the Arabic Press

Bonds proposed as way to curb direct borrowing from Cities and Villages Development Bank

**\*\* A STUDY** prepared by the Local Councils Committee, within the framework of the 1999-2003 social and economic development plan, reveals that the rate of those who hold university degrees is extremely low as they account for only five per cent of the total number of staff. Those who hold diplomas represent a further nine per cent but the 86 per cent majority of employees at local councils have only low-level education. At the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs, 47 per cent of the staff have low level education whereas 19 per cent hold degrees from community colleges. The remaining 34 per cent hold university degrees, the study said. It pointed out also that only few professionals, like engineers and surveyors, are stationed at engineering directorates of municipalities and local councils. As an example, there are 17 local councils in the Maan governorate but the number of engineers in these councils is only four. In contrast, there are four engineers and two surveyors at the engineering directorate of the governorate. "This shows that there is a shortage in the necessary engineering work to meet the demands of the councils," the study said. In addition, there is a low educational level among those who hold key posts at local councils. As an example, the accountants who hold university degrees account only for around 10 per cent of the total number of accountants. Similarly, the rate of highly educated managers is around 8.5 per cent of the total number in this group. Asked about the policies and measures necessary to activate the role of local councils in the development process, the director of regional planning and the committee's rapporteur said the budgets of the local councils should reflect the actual situation. The director/rapporteur, Khaled Tarawneh, stressed that the councils should adhere to available earnings and utilize them correctly and wisely. Tarawneh underlined the need to assist the councils by providing them with technical expertise through training in order to create the educational qualified people capable to use financial sheets and formulating the programmes that can be implemented. He called for activating the role of local councils in collecting dues and finding new methods for such collections. The director/rapporteur asked that loan extensions to local councils which suffer from budget deficits be limited except for urgent and necessary projects. He said that credits should only be extended according to the needs of councils which have room for borrowing and to the extent of not putting pressure on their financial situations. Such lending, he should, showed be granted only after reviewing the councils' annual plans and the projects as well as the priorities. He proposed that debentures/bonds be used by the councils. These bonds would be guaranteed by the Cities and Villages Development Bank to implement projects instead of borrowing cash directly from the bank (A) Dustour).

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 98


By Linda C. Black, Tribune Media Services, Inc.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) You'll be creative beyond your wildest imagination for the next few weeks. You'll be coming up with fabulous ideas. You'll start new projects, with the assistance of a person who is quite different from yourself. He or she will probably become known to you today, so make sure you're paying attention. **TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) Working and communicating with others is the theme for the next several weeks. You're more an action-oriented person, but it's good to know how to do this, too. Your ability to handle paperwork and help others reach a compromise is one of the secrets to your success. When you get this down, everything else is easy. **GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) You're a very creative person, and you'll be in very creative conditions for the next month or so. You're going to start out with a flurry of activity right now. You're full of good ideas, so at least write them down. Start as many as possible and don't hold back. Watch out, world! **CANCER:** (June 22 to July 21) Your focus is on home and family even more than usual. You're always focused on home and family. That's the most important thing in your life. Well, during the sun's transit of Libra, you make changes. This is when you're most likely to move, or redecorate, so don't be surprised if you start getting urges. **LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) By now you should have your financial situation handled. So what's the next challenge? Where should you apply yourself? What can you contribute? What is there to learn? These questions and many more will be popping into your head over the next several weeks. Jot down a few notes. What would you like to master next? **VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) The sun's going into Libra today, and the theme changes somewhat. Instead of being acknowledged for what you've done, you're going to have to get back in there and do more of it. Your workload should increase during this phase, but your income might increase, too. It's certainly worth going for. **LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 23) You're being pushed to get everything done, down to the finest detail. You may find yourself sorting and filling all day long, compulsively tidying, even scrubbing the floor. This doesn't have to be drudgery, by the way. It can be a lot of fun if you really get into it. **SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) The sun's going into Libra, and the moon's already there. You'll notice the influence. You might find yourself more indecisive than you like. You prefer staying rooted to your own point of view, but today you'll have the unenviable sensation of understanding where everyone's coming from. Let it be empowering. **SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Gather your favourite group together and start working on your next project. The sun's transit through Libra is a time of friendship and group activities. So start thinking about it. What could you and your buddies do that would make a positive impact on your neighbourhood? When you work together, you're awesome. **CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) You're generally much better at making decisions than your boss. But if an authority figure is giving you unwanted advice today, it would be wise to listen. There's probably something there you can use. Moderate your natural enthusiasm and force yourself to look at things from other people's perspectives. **AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) The sun's going into Libra, and the moon's already there, bringing out your best qualities. You're pretty much figured out where you are now, if you've been doing your homework, so it's a good time to take the next step. If you don't already know what that is, give it some thought, and be willing to entertain suggestions. **PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) That routine you've been fighting for the last month or so is starting to look more important. It has to do with setting things up in a certain way and doing them in order. You may as well learn it. You'll need it to launch into a new creative phase. Spend today checking to make sure you have everything you'll need.

Birthstone of September: Sapphire — Lapis Lazuli

Women make their mark on Saudi business world

**DUBAI (R)** — The Courageous Woman is a success in Saudi Arabia. So is the woman who runs it. Samia al Edrisi opened her retail company "Sidana" — which means "courageous woman" in Arabic — just two years ago in the eastern Saudi city of Khobar and is doing so well she plans to open branches in Riyadh and the Red Sea port of Jeddah. In the conservative Islamic Kingdom of Saudi Arabia — where women may not drive, must cover up in public and sexual segregation is the norm — women are carving out a niche in a business world which has traditionally been an all-male domain. Despite often frustrating restraints, Saudi women own more than 15,000 companies, or about 4.3 per cent of registered businesses, ranging from retail to heavy industry. Some 2,400 of the Riyadh Chamber of Commerce's 35,000 members are women, four times the number 10 years ago. Jeddah's chamber counts 2,000 women among its 27,000 members and the Eastern Province chamber has 1,100 women among 14,000. "There have been lots of problems for women... But the number of businesswomen is increasing at an incredible rate," Edrisi told Reuters. "There are certain restrictions, but if you want to get things done you can." Despite some upbeat voices and promising statistics, many wary Saudis say the situation for businesswomen is still dire. All the women who criticised the system in interviews were so worried about a negative backlash on themselves and their companies that they begged repeatedly for assurances they would remain anonymous. Some said the official figures were misleading and the number of true businesswomen was much lower. They said many businesses registered in women's names were actually run by men, with females merely holding the title. Others complained women were sidelined from traditionally male business spheres like construction and industry and relegated to "softer" sectors like retail and education. Women said they faced a mass of hurdles from conservative family values to restrictions on interaction between the sexes. By local custom, women are expected to make the home their top priority and working women are often frowned upon. In public, women and unrelated men are traditionally segregated from puberty, making business contact difficult. But a requirement to hire men to perform many business transactions or win male sponsorship for various activities remained the biggest obstacle, women said. "To issue a commercial licence, the businesswoman should have a Saudi male manager. He is to follow up on paperwork and at related governmental institutes... where women are not allowed in and where such institutes have not yet started women's sections," said Lina Bangash, a Saudi woman who works for the U.S. commercial service in Jeddah. She said women also needed male sponsors to get a loan. "It makes you see how these women struggle to start their own business. It's not easy," she said. One female entrepreneur said she ran into problems every time her work required her to meet officials. "Interfacing with the government always has to be done by a man. I can't go to the passport office and get visas for my employees. I can't do anything in a court or contractual dealings," she said. "It's very inconvenient." More than their male colleagues, women said they had to tread carefully to avoid upsetting local authorities, especially the religious police. "The fundamentalists did not leave us alone," said a woman who opened a firm in the male-dominated computer sector. After a decade of struggling with the authorities, the company closed last year. "We knew there were obstacles but we couldn't foresee how big they were." Women are quick to point out that the restrictions on their ventures are cultural, not religious. They say Islam supports women's rights both at home and at work. Islam assures women sole control of their inheritance and grants them property rights. Muslims say their holy book, the Koran, ensured women economic and social rights long before they were attained by women in the West. "Saudi traditions are the problem, not Islam," one woman said. "In early Islam, it was common for women to be active in business. (Prophet) Mohammad's first wife, Khadija was a trader." Many of the problems faced by Saudi businesswomen were not endemic to the oil-rich kingdom but reflected continued male dominance throughout the business world, some women said. Saudi women said they faced particular problems because many foreign business executives did not take them seriously. Earlier this year, the U.S. Commercial Service in Saudi Arabia arranged a trip for Saudi businesswomen to New York and Chicago to provide them with exposure to U.S. firms with the potential of exporting to the kingdom. Some of the women said they were appalled by the ignorance they encountered. "It's a global problem that women are not taken seriously," said one of the women. "People just assume these are women with money to waste. People in the United States were surprised how educated, smart and professional these women were." Edrisi said a lot of the women on the trip were offended by the attitudes they encountered, but she conceded that foreigners have little chance to learn what Saudi citizens are really like. "The Americans had nothing to compare us with except for stereotypes and their preconceived ideas," she said, adding that even she was amazed how outgoing some of the Saudi women were. "Some had never been abroad, but they ventured into the New York subway and ventured outside the city to find businesses. They were quite aggressive and I was pleasantly surprised."

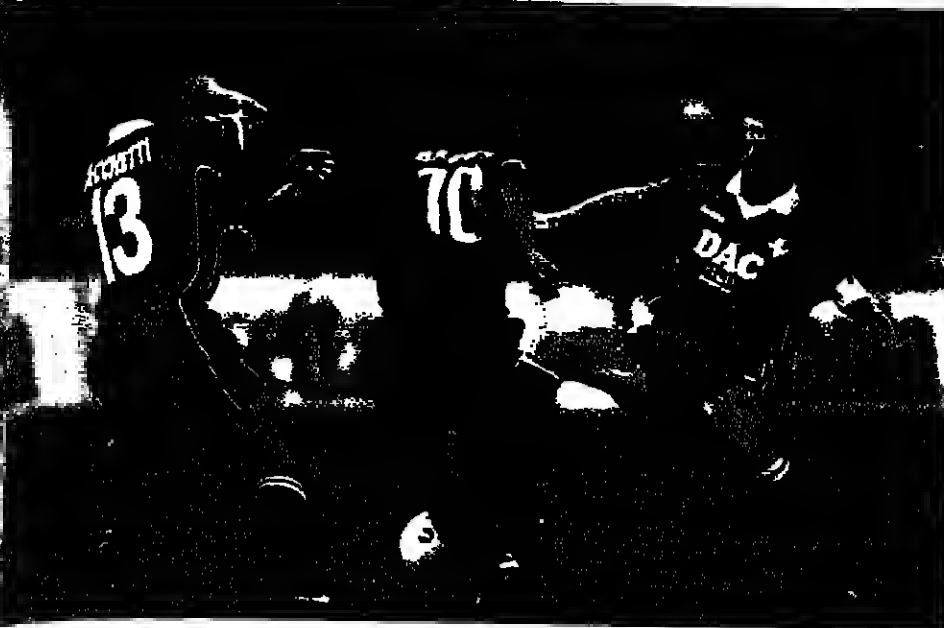
AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET												
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SHARISANI												
TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179												
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR MONDAY 21/09/1998												
PAST 12 MONTHS HIGH	PAST 12 MONTHS LOW	COMPANY'S NAME	P / E	DIV.	NO. OF TRANS.	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE		
S 355,500	170,000	ARAB BANK	18.0	91	47	1100	242005	221.00	220.00	1.00		
1,980	1,620	JOR. NATIONAL BK.	13.4	4.24	5	4250	7013	1.65	1.65	-		
1,300	870	MID.EAST INV.BK.	62.4	0.00	1	700	665	.95	.95	-		
S 6,510	2,610	THE HOUSING BK.	18.8	3.27	96	54896	159366	2.83	2.87	.14		
S 3,450	1,760	JOR. KUMHAT BANK	8	0.00	2	99	176	1.79	1.79	-		
870	560	JOR. GULF BANK	9	0.00	1	2000	1130	.56	.56	-		
S 3,310	1,640	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	17.3	0.00	2	500	845	1.69	1.69	-		
S 3,900	1,350	JOR. INV.FIN.BANK	22.8	3.38	5	261	384	1.48	1.48	-		
850	600	PHILADEL. INV. BK.	P	0.00	13	53250	36210	.67	.68	.01		
BANK SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 289.18		CHNG: +0.21		172		117056			
							447773					
S 4,000	1,380	JERUSALEM INSUR.	9.2	5.93	2	125	169	1.38	1.35	.03		
2,850	1,750	JOR. FRENCH INSUR.	7.4	9.43	7	6700	17863	2.65	2.65	-		
2,350	1,800	ARAB LIFE INSUR.	9.5	0.00	2	600	1188	1.94	1.98	.04		
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 126.45		CHNG: +0.05		11		7425			
							19219					
S 2,240	1,430	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	9.7	5.54	20	9250	13690	1.47	1.49	.02		
1,360	740	WATL. PORTFOLIO	29.9	0.00	7	375	2813	.75	.75	-		
S 4,600	1,880	ARAB INTL. INV. EDUC.	9.7	2.05	4	2000	3900	1.94	1.95	.01		
1,000	880	ARAB EDUCATION	20.5	0.00	2	800	712	.89	.89	-		
1,830	1,060	UNIFIED CO.	5.0	9.73	7	1850	2090	1.13	1.13	-		
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 106.49		CHNG: +0.34		40		17650			
							23204					
S 3,880	1,840	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	11.3	5.76	7	2197	40681	1.89	1.91	.02		
S 6,500	2,950	ARAB POTASH CO.	19.0	5.19	1	42600	164010	3.95	3.85	.10		
11,250	10,050	JOR. PETROL. REFINERY	10.2	8.43	4	102	1080	10.55	10.55	-		
1,670	1,050	INDUSTRIAL COMM. AGR.	66.2	0.00	2	350	390	1.12	1.12	-		
S 5,740	2,400	ARAB PHARM. MANF.	7.4	2.78	40	33116	89743	2.69	2.70	.01		
S 5,590	1,100	JOR. CERAMIC IND.	7.9	8.85	4	1230	1276	1.13	1.13	-		
6,350	4,700	DAR ALMAJMA'AT INV.	6.6	6.38	11	6850	37633	5.46	5.49	.03		
570	390	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	13.2	0.00	14	8500	3315	.40	.39	.01		
800	370	NATIONAL STEEL IND.	9	0.00	8	6065	2276	.37	.38	.01		
590	300	INTERMED. PETRO. CHEM.	9	0.00	4	3350	1005	.30	.30	-		
690	350	JOR. ROCKETWORK IND.	9	0.00	4	3250	1173	.27	.36	.01		
1,760	760	UNIV. CHEM. INDUS.	9.7	8.42	5	1100	1045	.96	.99	.01		
2,300	700	WATL. CABLE WIRE, MPAC	32.3	0.00	10	11000	7765	.71	.71	-		
730	380	JOR. SULPHO-CHEM.	7.6	4.69	3	33700	13154	.40	.40	-		
S 1,470	1,150	ARAB PHARM. CHEM.	14.1	0.00	3	1036	1325	1.27	1.28	.01		
S 1,260	530	UNIV. NOON IND.	10.7	8.96	22	13250	8959	.67	.67	-		
1,890	500	JOR. INDUS. RESOURCES	10.7	0.00	19	6700	3250	.49	.49	-		
1,080	600	JOR. RUB. CABLE CO.	9.0	15.63	7	7750	4960	.64	.64	-		
1,560	1,150	EL. & EAY READY WEAR	44.3	0.00	4	1250	1575	1.20	1.26	.06		
S 1,310	910	INTL. TOBACCO	7.3	5.61	29	5100	52907	1.03	1.04	.01		
1,890	800	JORDAN STEEL	8.7	8.03	7	8174	7088	.86	.87	.01		
730	580	NAT. ALUMINIUM	33.7	0.00	22	10900	7412	.68	.68	-		
670	530	MID.EAST COMPLEX	10.0	0.00	2	1000	550	.55	.55	-		
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 78.12		CHNG: +0.75		267		273570			
							452568					
GRAND TOTAL			INDEX: 173.65		CHNG: +0.01		490		415701			
							942764					
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR MONDAY 21/09/1998												
N 1,050	860	EXPORT & FIN. BKK. 754	16.1	0.00	2	2250	1395	.86	.87	.01		
N 1,000	810	JOR. INT. INSURANCE CO.	9	0.00	1	100	77	.81	.77	.01		
740	490	CENTRAL GEN. STORAGE	9	0.00	2	350	97	.28	.27	.01		
1,500	800	UNION INV. CO.	9	0.00	1	400	212	.54	.53	.01		
620	240	ARAB FIN. INVEST.	9	0.00	5	25750	6438	.25	.25	-		
1,000	810	ARAB JOR. INVEST. CO.	16.2	0.00	2	20000	19000	.90	.95	.05		
760	490	JOR. INDUS. RESOUR. JORDO	9	0.00	1	38550	38550	.16	.16	-		
630	270	ARAB FOOD & MED.	9	0.00	4	11550	3495	.30	.30	-		
400	230	ARAB INTL. INV. TRD.	27.6	0.00	5	6900	1656	.24	.24	-		
580	260	NATL. MILK. IND. NAHCO	9	0.00	12	33300	8914	.27	.28	.01		
590	260	JOR. INDUS. RESOUR. JORDO	9	0.00	1	1500	67	.07	.07	-		
690	570	MID.EAST FINANC.	9	5.92	14	15250	30539	2.14	2.11	.03		
2,160	1,160	UNION TOBACCO 87.51	13.4	0.00	2	10000	10000	.00	.00	-		
720	570	RAZI PHARM.	9	0.00	2	1000	600	.61	.60	.01		
580	260	JOR. INDUS. RESOUR. JORDO	9	0.00	5	1500	67	.07	.07	-		
690	570	INDUS. CERAMIC	9.2	0.00	2	2000	700	.35	.35	-		
N 950	540	ADVANCED PHARMA. IND.	9	0.00	8	8230	4526	.55	.55	-		
N 500	280	PELO. SAW & CONVE.	9	0.00	1	1000	750	.31	.30	.01		
N 1,500	600	RAZI PHARM.	9	0.00	5	15000	7852	.83	.81	.01		
N 990	330	OPTICALS REPAIRING CO.	9	0.00	17	20500	6686	.34	.35	.01		
N 660	300	RUHAYAT	9	0.00	3	5000	4000	.82	.80	.02		
N 1,000	690	AL-KHARAL PRINTING CO.	10.7	10.82	5	1300	912	.71	.70	.01		
GRAND TOTAL					117		216010		105672			



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Inter Milan striker Roberto Baggio (C) fights for the ball against Piacenza defenders Stefano Sacchetti (L) and Alessandro Mazzola during their Italian Major League at the Meazza stadium in Milan (Reuters photo)

## Ronaldo makes winning return

MILAN (AFP) — Ronaldo made a match-winning debut for Inter Milan in the Serie A here on Sunday night, driving home a penalty for a 1-0 victory over Piacenza.

Ronaldo, suspended for the season-opener against Cagliari, won himself an early birthday present and earned a respite for under-fire coach Gigi Simoni in a harsh-tackling match.

The turning point came when Inter's 19-year-old whizzkid Andrea Pirlo was tripped by defender Stefano Sacchetti. Ronaldo drove his spot-kick in the right-hand corner, sending the goalkeeper the wrong way.

"It was my first match and my first goal," said the Brazilian, who turns 22 on Tuesday. "I hope it's a good omen, because I'm looking to be the Ronaldo I was last season or even better."

Looking ahead to the expected championship duel with Juventus, he said: "We're all hungry for victory and we're a real team. We're on the right road."

Juventus chalked up a 1-0 victory over Cagliari after being rifled into an eighth-minute lead by Filippo "SuperPippo" Inzaghi.

But it was another disappointing day for Alessandro Del Piero, who hasn't scored in open play since last April despite a dozen games between club and international duty.

Coach Marcello Lippi said: "We know that we are not really sorted yet, but the important thing is to get results when the team aren't on top form."

"The team spirit, the sense of sacrifice and the will to win are all there."

The champions are one of only three clubs, with Fiorentina and AC Milan, to have won both league matches this season.

Fiorentina kept their 100 per cent record by beating Vicenza 2-1 away, with Argentinian skipper Gabriel Batistuta nodding home Moreno Torricelli's cross in the first minute.

The home side levelled when midfielder Marco Schenardi crossed and Fiorentina defender Pasquale Padalino fumbled the ball into his own net in the 68th minute.

But his team sealed all three points three minutes later when Batistuta set up Belgian international Luis Oliveira for a rasping angled shot into the far corner of the net.

AC Milan were 2-1 winners away to Salernitana, with all the goals coming late in the game.

German ace Oliver Bierhoff headed Milan into a 67th-minute lead and Brazilian substitute Leonardo deflected home a

George Weah shot for their second in the 86th.

Salernitana pulled one back two minutes later when skipper Roberto Breda cracked home a free-kick but it was all too late for the southerners.

Milan coach Zaccaroni said: "We were motivated and showed a lot of grit, although I do think we could have finished it earlier. 'We were more determined in the second half, although as I've said before, we still need that confidence which will come only with the results.'"

Bierhoff, the Serie A's top scorer last season with Udinese, said: "It's not the fact that I scored, it's the result that counts."

"And after winning a battle like this one, it's an important result not just for the three points but also for team morale."

Mario Amoroso was Udinese's hero in a 3-1 win at Bologna after a heart-stopping finish. The Brazilian striker headed them into a 14th minute lead and then converted a 44th minute penalty after being tripped by goalkeeper Francesco Antonioli.

Bologna had Amedeo Mangone sent off just before the break but Igor Kolyvanov pulled one back by converting a 63rd penalty — only for his Russian teammate Igor Simutenkov to miss another in the 83rd.

Two minutes later, Belgian midfielder Johan Walem volleyed in Udinese's third for the team's first win there since 1982.

Big-spending Lazio ground out their second draw, 0-0 with Bari.

Lazio's owner Sergio Cragnotti put on a brave face, saying: "We created a lot of chances and could have won 3-0 or 4-0. There are a lot of new faces in the team and a few problems are inevitable."

And he warned: "Juventus — we'll catch you."

City rivals AS Roma could do no better at Empoli after international midfielder Luigi Di Biagio missed an 85th minute penalty — just as he did in Italy's shoot-out with France in the World Cup quarter-final.

Sampdoria finished 1-1 with Perugia after they too missed a match-winning penalty.

Frenchman Pierre Leigle scored for Sampdoria, Perugia levelled in the 49th minute through Renato Olive and then watched Sampdoria striker Vincenzo Montella miss a 72nd minute spot-kick.

Parma meanwhile clocked up their second consecutive 0-0 draw at Venezia.

## Spain beat Switzerland to win Fed Cup

GENEVA (AFP) — Spain defeated Switzerland 3-2 to win the Fed Cup final here on Sunday and take the trophy for the fifth time in eight years.

The experienced pair of Arantxa Sanchez Vicario and Conchita Martinez sealed victory by crushing their younger opponents Martina Hingis and Patty Schnyder 6-0, 6-2 in the decisive doubles.

Spain previously won the title in 1991, 1993, 1994 and 1995. Sanchez Vicario and Martinez have appeared in all of those triumphs.

World No. 1 Hingis, who won both her singles, and her partner were ruthlessly exploited in the final rubber, with the Spaniards concentrating on their opponents' tiredness.

Earlier, Hingis had survived a scare to beat Sanchez Vicario 7-6 (7/5), 6-3 but Martinez brought the tie level at 2-2 by beating Schnyder 6-3, 2-6, 9-7.

An exhausted Schnyder had come close to triumphing in the final set but eventually succumbed in three hours and 18 minutes.

## Florence Griffith Joyner dies of heart seizure

MISSION VIEJO, California (AP) — Florence Griffith Joyner, the triple gold medalist at the 1988 Olympics who captivated the world with her meteoric speed and flamboyant style, died Monday of an apparent heart seizure. She was 38.

Griffith Joyner was the wife of 1984 Olympic triple-jump gold medalist Al Joyner and the sister-in-law of Jackie Joyner-Kersey, the six-time Olympic medalist and world heptathlon record-holder.

Greg Foster, the three-time world champion in the 110-metre hurdles, said he had been told of the death by Joyner-Kersey, who had heard of it from her brother Al.

The sheriff's office in Orange County said a Florence Griffith Joyner, 38, had died in Mission Viejo, but could not confirm that it was the former track star.

Griffith Joyner had suffered a heart seizure two years ago on a flight to St. Louis.

Griffith Joyner still holds world records in the 100- and 200-metre dashes. She set the 100 metre mark of 10.49 seconds at the quarterfinals of the 1988 Olympic trials at Indianapolis, and since then, no one has even broken 10.60. At the Seoul Games, she won the gold medal in a wind-aided 10.54.

She then smashed the world 200 record in the Olympic final, clocking 21.34. No one else has broken 21.70.

She also won a gold medal in the 400 relay and just missed a fourth gold medal when the U.S. team finished second in



Picture dated 25 September 1988 of U.S. sprinter Florence Griffith-Joyner waving the 'Stars and Stripes' U.S. banner after winning the women's 100 metres sprint final of the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul. The American athlete, who set women's 100- and 200-metre world records in 1988, died Monday at the age of 39 due to a seizure (AFP photo)

the 1,600 relay, which Griffith Joyner anchored.

Not only did "FloJo" dazzle fans with her stunning speed, she caught their attention with her colourful bodysuits and her 6-inch (15-centimetre) decorated fingernails.

She also displayed a muscular physique, which prompted talk of steroid use. Griffith Joyner insisted she never used performance enhancers and she never failed a drug test.

At the 1988 trials, where she ran the three fastest 100-metre times ever by a woman and set the American record in the 200, she also set standards in track fashion.

At the Olympics, she painted three of her fingernails red,

white and blue, and she painted a fourth gold to signify her goal.

At the 1987 World Championships in Rome, she caused a sensation by running the first two rounds in a skintight suit similar to a speedskater's togs.

But her health was a concern.

In 1996, she suffered a seizure on an airplane flight from California to St. Louis. She was hospitalised for one day, and the family requested that no other details be released.

At the time, Griffith Joyner, accompanied by her husband and daughter, Mary, was en route to the Jackie Joyner-Kersey Relays for high school

athletes.

"The Olympic family is saddened and stunned by her passing," U.S. Olympic Committee President Bill Hybl said Monday. "She was a role model for girls and young women in sports and her legacy will be one that included kindness and an interest in children. She will be missed."

Griffith Joyner was voted The Associated Press Female Athlete of the Year for 1988 and also won the Sullivan Award as the nation's top amateur athlete.

After retiring from track in the wake of the Seoul Games, she served for a time as co-chairman of the President's Council on Physical Fitness.

## IOC comes out against Super League plans

BRUSSELS (AP) — The International Olympic Committee came out Monday against plans to create a European Super League grouping the richest soccer clubs, arguing it would monopolise income at the expense of smaller clubs.

An IOC delegation headed by President Juan Antonio Samaranch told European Union officials the lucrative

television deals planned under the super league would not profit soccer as a whole.

"This is why a project like the Super League would be dangerous since it would concern a select club of top teams and the money they would generate would not trickle down to the provincial clubs," said Jacques Rogge, the head of the European Olympic Committees.

"Our point is that the collective negotiations of television rights is the only way to let money filter through from the top level of sports to the grassroots," Rogge said.

The IOC called on the EU's Executive Commission to use its clout to make sure an equitable system of revenue distribution continues to exist.

The 15-nation EU showed the impact it can have on

sports when it forced the European soccer federation to apply the 1995 Bosman ruling on free agency and scrap limits on EU foreigners.

The EU Commission is investigating whether the collective bargaining of soccer federations for the television rights of all their league clubs is compatible with EU antitrust laws or whether clubs should be allowed to

negotiate these rights individually.

Again, granting such rights to individual clubs would jeopardize the current system of solidarity between rich and poor clubs, Rogge said.

"If it becomes a jungle where every club can negotiate for itself, then you won't have a redistribution effect anymore," he told The Associated Press.

### Festival of the Arabian Horse at Home

The Royal Jordanian Arabian Horse Society is pleased to announce the 10th annual "Festival of the Arabian Horse at Home," from Sept. 29 to Oct. 2. The festival features in hand and ridden classes from 9 a.m. until early evening at the Royal Stables, Al Hummar on Sept. 29, 30 and Oct. 2 with international entries and judges. On Oct. 1 the programme includes only purebred Arabian Horse racing at the Royal Race Club in Teneib.

Refreshments, snacks and amenities are available daily on site.

A judges course will be held on the two days following the show also at the Royal Stables.

For further details please contact the Royal Stables Tel.: 5342104, 5348123.

Spectators are all welcome



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Interested parties may obtain additional information by contacting:

EDTS Project Office

P.O. Box: 560 Al-Jubeiha

Jordan 11941

(Fax) 5333895

E-mail: edts@nchd.gov.jo

Proposals are to be submitted not later than

12:00 a.m. on October 20, 1998

The Economic Development through Technical Skills Project is Coordinated by The National Centre for Human Resources Development. Executed by The Association of Canadian Community Colleges and Funded by the Canadian International Development Agency

### PASSPORT LOST

I, Satnam Singh, have lost my Indian passport bearing the number A1052566 in addition to other Indian documents. Would greatly appreciate anybody who finds them contact me at the following address:  
Satnam Singh, P.O. Box 184091, Amman-Jordan

### Y.W.C.A./Amman Choir Singing

\*\*\*\*\*



The Y.W.C.A.'s 4-voice choir will be starting preparations for its Annual Christmas Concert that will be held December 7th, 8th, 9th & 10th/1998.

The programme includes contemporary pieces, traditional carols, and Arabic pieces. This year the choir will be accompanied by a children's choir as well. Rehearsals for the adult choir will be every Tuesday at the Y.W.C.A. hall, 3rd Circle, from 7:30 - 10:00 p.m.

Any experience with choral singing would be helpful.

For inquiries please call the Y.W.C.A. on  
telephones 4641119/4641793 between 9-1 a.m.  
& 3-6 p.m. except Sundays & Fridays.

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Breakfast includes: cheese, yoghurt, labani, olives, country eggs, grapes

Time: Friday, 25 September 8:30-11:30 a.m.

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Jabal Amman, Rainbow Street, at 6th left turn from First Circle.

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list with 273 points  
289 fewer than  
Blanda, who played  
kicker and punter  
Jackson, who  
Brunell threw for  
and a pair of touchdowns  
and rookie Eric Fournier  
for 128 yards and  
nine passes, including  
Four clubs gathered  
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by extending the win-  
less streak

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and Buffalo began 0-1  
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Philadelphia won 16-1  
the first time since 198

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